

Fighting rages in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Rival Mujahadeen groups in Afghanistan's interim government rained rockets on each other's positions in Kabul for a day Monday, shattering a ceasefire agreed between the two sides late last week. Doctors at three main hospitals in the Afghan capital said they had treated more than 200 civilian casualties from the fighting Monday, of which 13 had died. The death toll has risen to more than 50, with many of the dead and injured could not be brought to hospitals. The clashes threaten a council of nationwide representatives due to meet next week to elect a new president, officials said. The university hall in the centre of the city is the venue for the meeting and the heart of the fighting in Kabul. Smoke hung above the centre of the city and its western side where much of the fighting between the Shoor-e-Nazar group of former Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud and the Hezb-e-Wahdat party of the Taliban has been concentrated. The two sides agreed a ceasefire Monday, but the truce held for just a few hours with more fighting breaking out in the northwest of the capital overnight.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية (الراي)

UAE to revive consultative council

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is on the verge of resurrecting its consultative council after more than a year of inactivity caused by delays in appointing new members, officials said Monday. The appointment of 27 new members to the UAE's 40-man Federal National Council (FNC) is expected to be confirmed by President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan in the next few days, the officials said. The revival of the FNC, set up in 1972 to debate domestic and foreign policies pending before the cabinet, follows calls for expanding its powers and electing members. Officials said the council's first session in more than a year was expected to convene in early January. It last met in July 1991. The rulers of each of the UAE's seven emirates appoint the members, mostly influential local businessmen. Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the UAE's wealthiest emirates and producers of the bulk of its 2.4 million barrels per day of crude, each appoint eight members. Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah each contribute six members while Ajman, Fujairah and Um Al Quwain hold four seats each.

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AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1992, JUMADA AL THANI 11, 1413

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Local council meets

Petra — The newly-formed Karak Municipal Council held its second meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Mayor Karaki. The council discussed the city's development and the role of the council in the city's growth.

Paralyses in Yemen

Yemen (R) — A one-day strike by government and workers demanded pay of an end to 100 per cent inflation. Petrol stations and witnesses said that at Aden port and the also joined in the strike. The general Federation of Trade Unions, which called the strike, said that the strike was not met. The strike is close to the Yemeni Marxist South Yemen since the 1990 merger with the

Prime court tries to convict Dexter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court Monday reinstated the Iran-contras case of former National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter and Oliver North, who were sentenced in the Reagan-era over secret arms sales to the division of profits from the Iran-contras rebels. Poindexter's testimony was given under promise of immunity — was used against him. Mr. Poindexter was convicted in April 1989 for covering up the Iran-contras. He was found guilty of conspiracy, obstructing justice, and false statements.

Releases Frenchman

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has released a Frenchman after detainment for 19 days, French said Monday. "Raymond" was freed two days after source told Reuters. Sources said they did not get charges, if any, had brought against Mr. Raymond. Mr. Raymond, in his 40s, lived in Iran for over a decade. He was arrested on Nov. 18, held in Tehran. Iran's on Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said last month Iranian wanted to use Mr. Raymond as a hostage to secure release of two Iranians held in Paris on Nov. 18. The wanted in Switzerland for killing a Mujahadeen in Geneva.

Seeks to fight militants abroad

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has made its first attempt to extradite militant militants sentenced in absentia and believed to be abroad, officials said Monday. Interior Minister Abdel Moneim El-Sayid said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Egypt. He said that the five are being held in Europe.

Jordan cannot be squeezed further — Crown Prince

'Clinton should be active in peace process'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has already contributed well to the Middle East peace process and it could not be "squeezed" further, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday.

Speaking in an interview with Austrian Television, the Crown Prince said that there has to be a definite signal from the incoming administration of Bill Clinton that Washington would continue to be an active sponsor in the Arab-Israeli peace process despite the change in the White House.

The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath returned home Monday evening following visits to Croatia and Austria.

The Crown Prince met with the Austrian and Croatian presidents to discuss issues of common concern and visited Jordanian units serving in the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Croatia. Jordan Television said that the Crown Prince discussed the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Vienna. He later met with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Hock and discussed Jordanian-Austrian relations and topics of common interest.

Following the meetings, he said in a statement that he felt there was a great deal of support with regard to solutions of regional issues, particularly his call for a

conference on security and cooperation for the Middle East region.

"We also discussed the major tragedy facing the people of the Bosnia-Herzegovina and I felt that the Austrian leaders are keen on responding to a call by the French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the developments," he said.

"I believe the Austrian government has a deep interest in and concern over the Middle East peace process as it is a member of the U.N. Security Council and hosts working groups in the multilateral phase of the peace process," he added.

The Prince said that his visit to Austria was timely and he appreciated the Austrian leaders' feelings and initiatives with regard to the Balkan situation.

Following is a part of the Crown Prince's interview with Austrian Television: Question: Your Highness, you are known for your innovative ideas and for your innovative political strategies. What would you personally recommend in order to keep the peace process not only alive but to...?

Answer: Madrid was innovative to move from innovation to innovation after 10 months of the Madrid process, a process which is different to the Camp David

process where the sponsor is not actively involved between the parties, where the sponsor, say the United States, is in a transitional period between the Bush administration and the Clinton administration, requires some indication from the sponsor after the 20th of January inauguration of President Clinton that there is going to be a close involvement with the issues of the bilaterals principally and there of course some kind of concept for the multilaterals.

Q: Have you been able to discover what is so far in Mr. Clinton's intentions? Or is he to you completely unknown?

A: ... The Democratic thinktanks of course are already giving some indications of support for the peace process, support for an active role by the U.S. Some even speak of the need for the Jordanian contribution to the more forceful, more meaningful. But I would like to say that all parties have to be squeezed on the peace process. We once said 'If you want the peace process to succeed then everyone has to be squeezed a little' is an accepted formula. But we have been squeezed enough. We have carried the Palestinian-Jordanian umbrella as far as it would possibly go and I think that effectively in terms of the Palestinians it has to be recognised that they have to be more



central to the dialogue which concerns them on their soil.

Q: Is there a tendency because the issue is such a heavyweight issue to avoid it or to degrade it to a certain extent and to devote oneself to other issues that are maybe easier to handle and might produce more tangible results, at least spectacular results for the time being?

A: Quite sure, there is a tendency to talk about projects, to talk about small ideas, or cooperation here and there, in environment, in energy ... But I think projects complement concepts, and concepts ... are needed. Disparity has to be addressed. On the one side you have Israel with a per capita of 14 times the individual Palestinian per capita. And effectively the Palestinian-Jordanian contribution to stability in the region can only be served by

(Continued on page 5)

Eighth round of bilaterals opens

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed Monday despite the slaying of three Israeli reservists in a Palestinian ambush in the occupied Gaza Strip and a reduction in the size of the Palestinian delegation to register disapproval of the peace negotiations.

Elyakim Rubinstein, chief Israeli negotiator, called the attack "a stab in the heart." He complained that the Palestinians were violating the rules and making it difficult to work by reducing their delegation from 14 to four members.

The reduction was intended to register disappointment with the terms of Israel's proposal to give Palestinians limited self-rule on the West Bank and in Gaza. But they did not boycott the talks, which began more than 14 months ago.

The new round opened where

some progress is being made, between Israel and Jordan. Teams were to deal with individual issues according to an agenda approved during the last round, Mr. Rubinstein said. Israel is offering to permit the Palestinians to take charge of their own affairs, such as agriculture, hospitals and the like. But Palestinian negotiators want the plan to be geared to eventual statehood. They also want Israel to stop settling the occupied territories and expanding occupied Jerusalem.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told Reuters in Washington the decision to send a small team was intended as a protest at the lack of progress in the talks and the refusal of the United States, as host and sponsor, to intervene.

"By attending, we're showing we're committed to the peace

process. We're not boycotting but at the same time we're protesting," she said.

Mr. Rubinstein said he was disappointed with the Palestinian decision to keep most of its delegates at home because it would be difficult to get any real business done.

"You can't split into working groups, you can't really work, he said.

Dr. Ashrawi said Israel's proposals so far did not meet the basic rules of the peace process as set out in U.N. resolutions which speak of Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for peace.

"We wanted to signal that we don't have an unlimited mandate," she said.

They want the United States to put pressure on the Israelis.

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3 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Suspected Palestinian assailants raked an Israeli army patrol in the occupied Gaza Strip with automatic gunfire Monday, killing three soldiers, the army said.

The pre-dawn ambush came hours before the eighth round of Middle East peace talks was to reconvene in Washington and as Palestinians prepared to mark the start of the sixth year of their uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli jeep had been driving through a neighbourhood of Gaza City when it was fired upon by a passing vehicle, the army said in a statement.

All three soldiers in the jeep were killed, it said. The army said it was the highest number of Israeli soldiers killed in one attack by Palestinians in the occupied territories since the uprising started on Dec. 9, 1987.

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, claimed responsibility for the attack near Beit Lahya in leaflets strewn nearby, the workers said.

The leaflets, issued by the Qasam military wing of Hamas, said the attack commemorated the uprising anniversary, the founding of Hamas on Dec. 14, 1987, and the deaths of three Hamas activists killed by soldiers last week.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres vowed Israel would capture the assailants and bring them to trial. Palestinians, who launched the revolt with stone-throwing confrontations, have turned increasingly to guns.

They have killed as many Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1992 — 11 — as in all four previous years of the anti-Israeli revolt, the army said. The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli troops has also risen sharply in recent weeks, with 17

Arabs killed by troops since the start of November.

The army said the soldiers, all reservists, were patrolling slowly along a main road about 800 metres from the army's Nahal Oz roadblock at about 5:30 a.m. when they were ambushed.

The road was busy with Palestinian labourers heading to Israel. After the jeep was raked with fire, it crashed into a barrier blocking the entrance to a local neighbourhood.

Soldiers stopped cars and made house-to-house searches for witnesses. Gaza had been the scene of bloody confrontations in the last few days with 200,000 Palestinian residents put under curfew Sunday.

Army chief Ehud Barak said Israel expected Palestinian groups to step up attacks, hoping to disrupt the 13-month-old Middle East peace talks resuming in Washington Monday.

A count by Reuters shows Israelis have killed 964 Palestinians since the start of the uprising. Arabs have killed 106 Israelis, six tourists and 544 fellow Palestinians accused of collaborating.

Israeli military censors delayed publication of this report for hours pending notification of the soldiers' families.

The underground leadership of the uprising has called for a "week of anger" to mark the beginning of the sixth year of the uprising. Hamas also called for escalating the struggle against Israeli soldiers and civilians.

It was the worst attack on Israeli troops since February, when three soldiers were killed at their training base in northern Israel by fundamentalist Israeli Arabs.

Two soldiers were killed in a similar ambush on their jeep near Gaza City in 1988.

Two more parties legalised

AMMAN (J.T.) — Authorities Monday legalised two more political parties, both pro-establishment, in line with the new Political Parties Law enacted this year.

The Popular Union Party (PUP) and the Pledge Party secured formal recognition from the Ministry of Interior Monday. "It's a sentimental moment," Talal Al Ramahi, secretary general of the PUP, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "My party owes total allegiance to His Majesty King Hussein and our principles are based on the idea of Arab unity."

The new law allowing political parties went into effect Sept. 1. On Thursday, the Jordan National Alliance Party became the first licensed group in Jordan since political parties were banned in 1957.

But the Ministry of Interior rejected applications by the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Baath Socialist Party on grounds that their ideology and objectives clashed with the Kingdom's Constitution and the new parties law.

A number of political groupings Monday demanded that the Ministry of Interior reverse its decision to refuse the licence application of the Jordanian Communist Party and the Baath Party.

The Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Progressive Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Unity Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Baath Socialist Party said in a joint statement that the ministry's decision to turn down the Communist and Baathist applications "rings an alarm bell over the future of other democratic groupings in the Kingdom."

"We declare our rejection of the decision to deny the two parties (to operate as political parties) and demand that the government reverse its decision in the service of national unity and for the purpose of consolidating the democratic process," said the statement, which was telefaxed to the Jordan Times.

The statement said the reasons cited by the Ministry of Interior in rejecting the two parties' applications "contradict the Constitution which sanctions the formation of political parties on the condition that their objectives are legal and peaceful."

It called on the government to reconsider the decision and license the two parties "in line with political pluralism and freedom of expression."

According to the law, parties are not allowed to have financial or ideological links with external organisations.

The Communists, long considered connected with foreign powers, and the Baath with its emphasis on unity with fellow Arabs, were considered by the ministry to fall into this category.

The ministry still is reviewing other applications, including that of the Islamic Action Front, representing the powerful fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood movement, which has been functioning for more than 40 years as a welfare organisation.

Iraq opens its Saddam River

YOUSFIYA, Iraq (Agencies) — Iraq inaugurated its Saddam River irrigation project Monday with a day-long festival celebrating resistance to U.N. sanctions.

The 565 kilometres waterway flowing between the Tigris and the Euphrates from Baghdad to the southern port of Basra will reclaim salty land for agriculture by washing it with surplus water.

Guests of honour at the opening ceremony beside the river near the town of Yousfiya, about 40 kilometres south of Baghdad, included Prime Minister Mohamad Hamza Al Zubeidi, cabinet ministers, leading officials of the ruling Baath Party and some foreign envoys.

Soldiers led the procession, carrying Iraqi flags and a giant portrait of President Saddam Hussein wearing an army helmet.

They were followed by engineers in identical grey suits, and uniformed pilots and stewards of Iraqi Airways, grounded by the U.N. sanctions in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Next came a drive-past of machinery used in the project, then poems and songs praising the achievement.

The day was declared a public holiday and huge crowds, many carrying banners and pictures of President Saddam, turned out for the ceremony, which also included cutting the tape on a 10-metre-high statue of the president, hand outstretched towards the river.

In a message read at the ceremony and broadcast on Iraqi television and radio, President Saddam emphasised the achievement of building such a project under sanctions.

"The decision (to build the river) came after two years of a blockade imposed by the evil powers in the countries which launched the 30-state aggression against Iraq," he said.

"They were mistakenly thinking that by such a devilish act they would be able to turn the brave Iraqi believers into beggars."

"When planning such a plot they had in their mind the present pictures of starvation and death in Somalia, and they wanted the same thing for the Iraqi people."

The river, officially opened by President Saddam's son-in-law and adviser Hussein Kamel Hassan, is about 25 metres wide at the northern end but up to 100 metres wide further south where it is navigable.

Chief engineer Zuheir Abbas told reporters the project had employed some 6,000 labourers



Clan fighters of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided pose for photographs with heavy guns mounted on a pickup truck as they 'patrol' Mogadishu port Monday (AFP photo)

Marines prepare to land in Somalia as dying continues

MOGADISHU (R) — Two Western warplanes swooped over Mogadishu Monday as a multinational force prepared to land and end a reign of terror by lawless gunmen who have blocked food to starving Somalis.

Somalis cheered when the planes, believed to be U.S. carrier-based F-14 Tomcats, howled over the battered city. U.S. Defence Department officials in Washington said Marines would land Wednesday and many clan gunmen have retreated from the capital.

But factional fighting continued for a second day in the central town of Baidoa, at the heart of the famine which threatens one million people with starvation.

A spokesman for the international relief agency Care said the death toll of Somalis caught in the fighting had risen from 24 overnight to 30. He said hospitals were treating large numbers for gunshot wounds.

The fighting in Baidoa began Sunday when quarrelling clansmen shot at each other and many innocent onlookers were killed when they were hit by a "technical" — heavily-armed jeeps used by gunmen. "They stopped for lunch," said Care official James Fennell. "Fighting is in the centre of town, which is quite worrying."

Ambassador-at-Large Robert Oakley met Monday with U.N. special envoy Imat Kittani, who has been in Somalia about a month, and with officials of international aid agencies. Mr. Oakley said he would meet Tuesday with clan warlords to tell them what the Marines planned to do.

Cable News Network (CNN) reported that a team of U.S. air traffic controllers landed Monday outside Mogadishu to help guide in planes that will bring more troops and supplies once the Marines secure airfields.

Diplomatic sources said 150 French Foreign Legion paratroopers based in neighbouring Djibouti likely would arrive in Somalia after the Marines and be followed by 850 French soldiers and Legionnaires a day later.

The effort gained new urgency with reports of the bloody skirmish in Baidoa, where food is short and hundreds of Somalis are starving to death daily.

Kenya, meanwhile, announced it closed its border with Somalia to prevent Somali gunmen from fleeing to avoid the foreign troops. Ethiopia took the same step over the weekend. The two nations about nearly all of Somalia's land frontier, which runs across thinly populated semi-desert.

There had been speculation the 1,800 marines on three ships offshore might land as early as Tuesday. They are the first of 28,000 American soldiers and Marines being sent to stop clan fighting and safeguard food.

"Frankly, there is some disappointment that they have not arrived here by now. We would hope that they would hurry up and arrive," said Rhodri Wynn Pope, team leader of Care.

The Americans are leading an international force to neutralise bands of unruly gunmen who have plagued the country into chaos, stealing relief shipments intended for the starving.

Three relief planes landed Sun-

day in Bardera, another hard hit town near Baidoa where aid workers had been down to their last 25 sacks of grain. The U.N. said 160 people died of starvation in Bardera Saturday.

Aid groups said they planned to parachute food to tens of thousands of people in villages around Bardera, where the danger is compounded by land mines.

Food, meanwhile, was moving again from Mogadishu's port. Aid workers Monday loaded a second convoy of vehicles with U.S.-donated wheat and sorghum destined for the northern part of the city.

Disagreements between Mohammed Farah Aided, the warlord who controls the southern half of the capital, and rival leader Ali Mahdi Mohammed in the north had kept the port closed more than a month. After two days of negotiations, the first shipment was allowed Sunday.

Marines on the amphibious assault ships Tripoli, Juneau and Rushmore have been off Somalia since last week. The Ranger, with 60 combat planes, is steaming from the Gulf accompanied by the Aegis cruiser USS Valley Forge.

The supply ship Jack Lummas left Mombasa, Kenya, on Sunday and was expected to join the amphibious task force late Monday.

U.S. defence officials in Washington said an advance guard of marines would land Wednesday morning to prepare for the international force eventually expected to number 36,000

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Iraq 'nuclear' official shot dead in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Iraqi national identified as a nuclear scientist was killed in the Jabal Hussein area of Amman Monday morning.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the man, Muayyad Hassan Naji Janabi, was shot dead.

A police statement carried by Petra, said that the victim, who was walking in one of the streets along with his family, was attacked by two unknown assailants who opened fire at him and fled the scene. Police are conducting investigations, it said. It did not give details.

Security sources quoted by the Associated Press said Janabi, 52, had come to Amman several weeks ago.

The sources said the unknown gunmen ambushed the Iraqi as he was parking his car with his wife, two sons and daughter.

They said the man was hit four times in the head and body while his family looked on.

"Two men approached Mr.

Naji...shot him straight in the head and fled on foot," said an official quoted by Reuters.

He said the man's wife, 35, and two children — a boy aged six and a girl aged four — escaped unhurt.

The officials said Janabi was an official with the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission who was staying with his wife's family in Amman.

It was not known if the killing was politically motivated. But several hundred Iraqis, including many are not sympathetic to the government of Saddam Hussein, fled to Jordan after the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990.

Iraqi diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

United Nations inspectors disarming Iraq after last year's Gulf war are still trying to fill gaps in information on Baghdad's nuclear weapons programmes and its foreign suppliers.

Inspectors say Iraq was within several years of making a nuclear bomb when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Much of the equipment has been destroyed but Iraq's nuclear scientists and engineers have valuable knowledge about the operations.

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Jordanian detainees continue to languish in Syrian jails

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several Jordanians are continuing to languish in Syrian jails with little prospect for their freedom despite recent amnesties announced by the government of President Hafez Al Assad, according to family sources and political activists in Jordan.

Among the prominent Jordanians imprisoned in Syria include Dafi Jamhani, 65, Hakeem Al Fayed, 62, and Mialli Nasraween, 52, who have been detained since 1970, shortly after Mr. Assad took power. A long-time Palestinian prisoner in Syria is Hassan Al Khatib, 65, who was also detained in 1970.

Thousands of prisoners were released from Syrian jails under an amnesty declared to mark Mr. Assad's reelection early this year and another pardon announced two weeks ago. But these excluded the Jordanians as well as Mr. Khatib among other long-term Palestinian detainees.

Noureddine Al Atasi, who Mr. Assad toppled and jailed in his coup in 1970, died last week in a Paris hospital after he was released under the recent amnesty announced by Damascus. It was expected that some of the Jordanians who were also detained with Dr. Atasi would be released, but the hopes proved unfounded.

"It does not seem that the Syrian regime has any intention to release the Jordanian

political activists," said Sameer Habashneh, who heads a Jordanian committee which has been seeking to secure the release of the Jordanian prisoners in Syria.

"It appears that the regime feels that they are better off in prison than being left free, and perhaps to propagate their political activities," he said.

Akef Al Fayed, a cousin of Hakeem Al Fayed and a former speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, said repeated "efforts at all levels over the past years have failed to secure the release of the prisoners."

"We are continuing our endeavours with hopes that they would be successful," said Mr. Fayed, now a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

The Jordanians, leading members of the Arab Baath Party, were arrested and imprisoned after they expressed views conflicting with those of Mr. Assad at a general conference of the party following his assumption of power in Damascus, Mr. Habashneh said.

"None of them had resorted to any kind of violence or plot against Assad," he said. "They had only expressed their disagreement with some of the ideas of Assad."

Over the past two decades, Jordanians have been exerting efforts at all levels to secure the release of the prisoners. Dozens of delegations have visited Damascus with appeals to Mr. Assad as well as the ruling party and senior officials of the regime but to no avail.

The Committee for the De-

fence of Jordanian Prisoners in Syria was set up two years ago, Mr. Habashneh said. The committee has also sought the help of European and Arab human rights activists and parliamentarians as well as Amnesty International to intervene with the Syrian government.

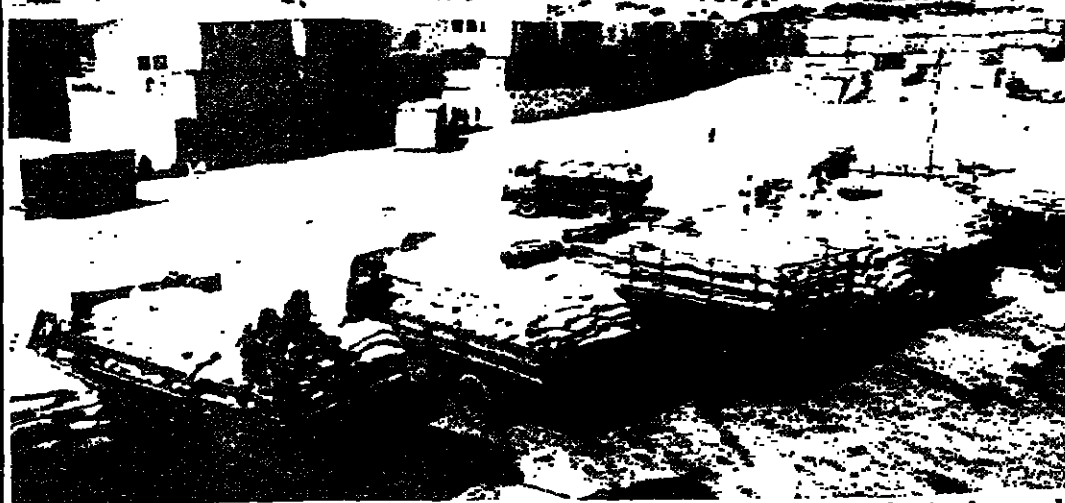
In a meeting with a European delegation which took up the cause of the Jordanians last year, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam "categorically denied the existence of such detainees in Syria," Mr. Habashneh said.

The release of Dr. Atasi, who was suffering from cancer, came after it became clear that his health was failing and he had little time left to pose any threat to the Assad regime, according to another source who keeps a close watch on developments in Syria.

In an obituary which appeared in Jordanian newspaper this week, a group of 10 people, including those detained in Syria, paid tribute to Dr. Atasi, who was laid to rest in his hometown of Homs Friday.

According to Mr. Habashneh, the health conditions of the Jordanian detainees are also deteriorating "as a result of their long detention."

"We cannot really understand why the Syrian government is continuing to keep them in prison," Mr. Habashneh said. "To detain someone for 22 years for no crime other than believing in a certain line of political thinking is a cruel punishment, to say the least."



Hundreds of shipping containers form a makeshift barricade to prevent armed handouts from food storage houses at Mogadishu port as trucks prepare to set off on their way to relieve the starving people in the north. The convoy on Sunday was the first to leave the port safely in three weeks (AFP photo)

Somalia — a lethal recipe

The writer, the AP's deputy international editor, was the AP bureau chief in Beirut from 1980 to 1983.

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Like Beirut a decade ago, Mogadishu is a lethal cocktail of guns and chaos.

Teenage gunmen cruise the streets in pickup trucks sporting .50-calibre machineguns and anti-tank rockets. The pop-pa-pop-crackle of rifle shots stiches the air, some fired in warning and others out of mere restlessness.

The scene is Mogadishu, but it is reminiscent of the broken city of Beirut, where a political vacuum arose in 1982 after the Israelis forced out Palestinian guerrillas.

U.S. Marines landed in Lebanon on a tide of high expectation from a populace weary of civil war. Similar hopes are building in Somalia, where ordinary people are looking to the Americans to put an end to the extraordinary anarchy.

The high hopes are the big danger.

"If all the Americans do is collect weapons and deliver food, then they haven't solved anything," said Abdul Qadir Ahmad, a former director of Somalia's central bank.

What the country needs is a political settlement, he and

other Somali intellectuals argue.

The Marines failed to bring a lasting peace in Beirut largely because they could not reconcile the feuding factions. As a result, 241 marines went home in body bags.

What happened in Lebanon could be a cautionary tale for the American marines arriving in Somalia later this week.

In Beirut, the Marines sent out patrols in a show of force. In the beginning, their green camouflage was a reassuring symbol of strength and was welcomed by most Lebanese. Guns were put away, markets reopened, people moved freely, children returned to school.

Soon, however, young gunmen reappeared in neighbourhoods adjoining the Marine base in southern Beirut. The Marines' patrols became a target to test their daring. First insults, then a push, stones, potshots.

Ultimately the Marines found themselves in the midst of artillery barrages and left after their barracks were attacked by a suicide car-bomber of an Iranian-backed faction.

The youth of southern Beirut and the warlords who controlled them came to view the Americans as allies of Lebanon's Christian factions. That was in part because the Marine commanders appeared publicly with the

head of Lebanon's army, a former Christian militia commander who was viewed as biased by Muslims.

The Americans' intent was to show support for a new army, one in which all factions would be represented.

In Somalia, the Marines could face a similar problem.

Thus far, the militia chiefs are pledging to work with the Americans and their allies. But they want to be consulted, and dealing with them could be as tricky as shaking the wrong hands in Beirut.

There is also the same seed of Islamic opposition here, as in Beirut.

Already Somali Muslims have been warned in Friday prayer sessions that the American deployment is part of an anti-Islamic campaign.

One faction that could spell trouble is the Itahad Islami, a group that reportedly has Saudi backing.

"They think the Americans want to make everyone Christian," said Mohammad Mahmoud, an official of a non-fundamentalist faction headed by Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

The Itahad is the only group that is likely to resist an order to disarm. Mr. Mahmoud said, "It is important to know who is friendly and who is hostile and who wants a return to order," he said.

Finding out may be a painful process.

Israel's lawmen want to muzzle military censor

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli legislators want to curb the military censor amid fresh accusations that his sweeping powers have been abused at the expense of democracy and free speech.

The charges emerged after the chief censor Brigadier-General Yitzhak Shani suppressed information about a training accident that killed five soldiers last month.

Critics charged that the censor sought to protect the reputation of generals rather than Israeli security.

Then on Tuesday, the government suspended press credentials of two foreign correspondents for U.S. and British newspapers whom it accused of breaching censorship by publishing details of the training exercise at Tel Aviv base.

The foreign press association in Israel complained, saying it suspected the stories had been deliberately leaked.

Dedi Zucker, head of parliament's legislation committee, said he asked legal experts to draft a bill to curb the censor's powers.

He said he had support across the political spectrum despite opposition from an unlikely adversary — most Israeli newspaper editors who enjoy what he called a "cozy" relationship with the censor's office.

"We are representing the public interest for free speech and the right to know," Mr. Zucker told Reuters in an interview.

The existing legislation, modelled on the strict British mandatory emergency regulations of 1945, allows the censor to repress 41 categories of information, mainly security-related.

Even reports of forthcoming military appointments and the economic performance of military industries are censorable.

A landmark ruling by Israel's supreme court in 1982 held that military censors could ban publication only if it clearly en-

dangered state security.

Several Israeli newspapers accused the censor of overstepping his authority when he barred reports that army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak and military intelligence chief Uri Saguy witnessed the Nov. 5 accident in which a mistakenly-fired missile killed five soldiers of an elite unit.

"Concerning the presence of the generals, there was no justification whatsoever," said Mr. Zucker. "It looks more like a cover-up rather than anything else."

Under pressure from newspapers, the censor eventually allowed reports that General Barak and General Saguy were at Tel Aviv. But some foreign correspondents took the story one step further.

The Miami Herald reported the aborted military exercise was a rehearsal for the planned assassination of Hizbollah (Party of God) leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut. Herald reporter Carol Rosenberg's credentials were suspended indefinitely.

Though the incident raised fresh demands to limit the scope, there is clearly a wide consensus among Israelis on the need for continued censorship.

Mr. Zucker said most Israeli newspaper editors opposed his proposed reforms and preferred their current "gentlemen's agreement" for resolving disputes with the censor out of court. Some say the arrangement is tantamount to self-censorship.

The independent daily Haaretz is an exception. Editor Hanoch Marmari recently announced he was pulling out of the arrangement and would take disputes with the censor to the supreme court.

Mr. Marmari would like to see censorship abolished but he said few editors shared his views.

Many editors favoured censorship because it spared them the moral dilemma of whether to publish sensitive security-related stories, he said.

Algerian forces kill extremist, wound another

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces shot dead a Muslim fundamentalist and wounded another in a gun battle on Sunday.

State television showed the body of Kanchouch Kakim, 27, in Oued Ouchai, a southern suburb of Algiers and a wounded man being taken away by police. It said one member of the gang escaped.

The men were trapped after carrying out a hold-up in Badjarah, another suburb of the capital.

Algiers and six nearby districts were under a second night of curfew Sunday, as the authorities battled to eradicate Muslim fundamentalists blamed for more than 170 deaths among the security forces since last February. Police also arrested six people Sunday on suspicion of carrying out Islamic fundamentalist terror attacks.

The suspects are suspected of killing the chauffeur of a high-ranking policeman in a failed ambush, and with trying to kill two other police officers, the official APS news agency reported.

The attacks occurred in Oran, Algeria's second largest city. Police reportedly seized a machine pistol, a semi-automatic pistol, a short-wave radio and bomb-making materials, APS said.

The arrests came a day after a curfew went into effect in the capital and surrounding areas, covering 60 per cent of the country's 26 million people. Oran is not part of the zone.

Somali gunmen make a few dollars more

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuters

MOGADISHU — "Gimme your passport, please," said the "airport official" at the edge of the dirtstrip runway.

In return, he handed over an immigration arrival form and ran off to a ramshackle shed to stamp the passport.

Only 24 hours before the expected arrival of an advance force of U.S. marines with orders to "use all necessary means" to protect food supplies for famine-stricken Somalia, life in the north of the divided capital carries on as normal — or almost.

Suddenly, two U.S. fighter planes scream overhead. Groups of young gunmen — dressed in the baggy fatigues of the militia of so-called interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad — point at the sky and chatted excitedly.

"Will the marines have to pay landing duties?" a reporter asked.

"Why not? Many dollars," one gunman replied with a laugh.

The "customs official" was unperturbed. "You're official," he asked. "No U.N. passport, you pay \$20. Journalist \$50."

The passport was stamped. A receipt is written for "landing fees."

In Ali Mahdi's northern en-

clave of this ruined city, the interim president likes to pretend he is in charge of a legitimate and functioning government.

Official stamps and documents were hurriedly picked up from ministries under his control when he and his Abgal followers fled before the guns of his arch-rival Mohammad Farah Aided.

General Aided now controls of least two-thirds of Mogadishu. Mr. Ali Mahdi and his ministers — including those of finance and tourism for a country which no longer exists — are holed up in the once-wealthy suburb of Kaaraan.

Such extortion is not unique to the north. It happens as much in the area under Gen. Aided's control and is a major factor in the U.N. decision to send in a famine relief protection force.

Mr. Ali Mahdi tried to give his rag-tag band the trappings of government. Young thugs wear uniforms, officials stamp meaningless pieces of paper, and issue useless receipts.

With a task force of about 1,800 U.S. marines on the horizon, the "green line" divided the city is more relaxed than for months.

Gunmen called who "guard" aid workers and convoys in return for fat fees or a percentage of relief supplies, on both sides now come within talking distance of

each other.

But the people on the north seem the happiest about the arrival of the multinational U.S.-led force which may finally number more than 30,000. They see the Americans as delivering them from Gen. Aided.

Women, men and children in the crowded camp, chant and ululate at sight of any unknown foreigner.

"The Americans will take away the guns that have ruined this country, the days of the dictators are numbered," said Issa Guleed, a 18-year-old "fixer" for one of the aid organisations, has high hopes of the Americans.

Perhaps too high.

He says they will restore a decent government, disarm the gangs, and end the turmoil which gripped the wretched Horn of Africa country after the January 1991 overthrow of dictator "Mohammad Siad Barre."

"Perhaps, I will be able to go to university," he added.

Guleed wants to be a doctor but like all young men in the chaos of Somalia he has to choose between becoming a gunman or a fixer.

He thinks he chose wisely.

"No-one, even Aided, can fight the U.S. troops. They have everything — boats, planes, tanks everything. I am very happy," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

New tension between DFLP rivals

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian hardliner Nayer Hawatme seized an office in a Syrian refugee camp at gunpoint former followers said Sunday. Mr. Hawatme's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) two factions last year, with Tunis-based moderates led by Abed-Rabbo supporting Arab-Israeli peace talks. The wing said in a statement that Mr. Hawatme's followers its office in Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus (Syria) authorities ignored a request for the withdrawal armed members of Hawatme's group. It said, "Syrian forces continue to support Hawatme because he is a Syrian attitude." Syria takes part in the U.S.-sponsored talks, which resume in Washington on Monday, but all Palestinian groups opposed to them to operate from

Kuwait awards Bush honorary doctorate

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait University has decided to award President George Bush an honorary degree, the university said Sunday. The decision was taken Saturday at a university council headed by Kuwaiti Minister of Higher Education Ali Al Rubai, the statement said. Mr. Bush, who lost last year's presidential elections to Bill Clinton, remains highly popular in Kuwait for his role in the U.S.-led coalition which defeated Iraq's forces. Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was granted a similar degree last year for her role in bringing the coalition together.

Diplomat smuggles electric appliances

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian authorities have in Cairo-based Arab diplomat using his diplomatic immunity to smuggle video and television sets into the country with customs, security sources said. They said customs officers airport found in the diplomat's personal shipments 800 television sets. The diplomat had claimed the boxes contained washing machines, a refrigerator and a dryer, the sources said. The electrical appliances were confiscated and the diplomat asked to pay a fine of \$300,000 (one million Egyptian pounds).

Mubarak sends flowers to Shamir

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak bouquet of flowers to hospitalised former Prime Minister Shimon Peres Sunday, a hospital spokeswoman said. The bouquet was for the Tel Hashomer Hospital where Peres was removed from Mr. Shamir's intestines last week. The former premier thanked Mr. Mubarak for the gift. Mr. Shamir, 77, is the leader of the opposition and served as prime minister until June when he was reelected. After the defeat, he announced retirement in effective March 1993, kicking off a vigorous race among legislators for party leadership. Mr. Mubarak criticised Shamir's hardline policies in the past, and urged him to be flexible in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. The two did during Mr. Shamir's premiership.

Italy, France, Germany oppose Libya

NICOSIA (AP) — Italy, France and Germany are now have informed the United States and Britain that they support measures to curb Libya's oil exports, the Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. The weekly, published in Nicosia, gave no source for its report good sources in the oil industry in the Middle East and on Nov. 23, Britain, the United States and France issued statement demanding Libya comply with U.N. demand over two Libyans suspected in the Dec. 21, 1980 bombing of a Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The statement three countries were "resolved to intensify their efforts to make the sanctions even more effective." There is tougher measures being imposed against Libya, in addition to existing air travel ban that was clamped in an effort to force the country to surrender the suspects. The economic weekly said it that Rome, Paris and Bonn informed Washington and London they would not support oil sanctions. It pointed out France and Germany are major importers of Libyan oil; industry is reported to be suffering a severe shortage of as a result of the sanctions that already have been imposed.

Israeli army to cut back guards

TEL AVIV (AP) — The army said Sunday it plans to number of guards at border settlements, but the measure drew protest from the settler populace. The budget cuts meant some settlements would have to rely on providing guards, but it promised not to reduce small agricultural settlements, which cannot spare busy guards. It did not say how many guards would be cut, how large the saving would be. The decision was at residents on the Lebanon border, which is prone to infiltrations. Israelis living on the borders "are in protection for their families," Yossi Goldberg, chairman of border settlements, told Israel Radio. "It is an attempt to cut the guard in the border settlements." Yediot Ahronoth quoted from a letter of protest from Secretary of Sassa, a northern farming settlement, Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also the defence minister, settlements on the confrontation lines are paying a heavy price by living on the border. It is inconceivable that they be punished," he wrote.

Israeli: New Zealand a Nazi haven

TEL AVIV (R) — A leading Israeli Nazi-hunter accused New Zealand of turning itself into a sanctuary for Nazis because decision Monday not to prosecute alleged war criminals there. "This decision of your government to halt the investigation is a very unfortunate one for many reasons," Efraim director of Israel's Simon Wiesenthal Centre, wrote Minister Jim Bolger. "In effect, it turns New Zealand potential haven for Nazi murderers who might face prosecution elsewhere. With investigations halted, New Zealand becomes an ideal refuge," he wrote. He said New Zealand had sent message at a time when neo-Nazism was on the rise in

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Michael Vaillant
18:30 The Family Raftman
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:30 Margaret
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Carc Takers"

PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr
06:18 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:27 Asr
14:13 Maghrib
16:34 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfiah, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
Church of the Association Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Association Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625643
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A cold front will affect Jordan, therefore, clouds will increase gradually and rain will fall in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom, a drop in temperature will occur and winds will be westerly fresh. In Amman it will be partly cloudy, and winds will be southerly fresh and seas high.
Min./Max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 06/13
Aqaba 09/23
Dahab 04/16
Jordan Valley 11/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Atas Al Hakim 883880
Dr. Faidir Al Bilal 663412
Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362
Dr. Hisham Kanan 790286
Fines pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naboukha pharmacy 636572
Al Sahon pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeitani pharmacy 637660
Naboukha pharmacy 636372
Najib pharmacy 847632

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Fire Brigade 991228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 926390
Public Security Department 639321
Hotel Complaints 625890
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

REPAIRS:
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Abdali Motor, J. Amn. 624216
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 624216
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Maltes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeitani 6641714
Shmeitani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Queen Alia Hospital 66224850
Al-Ami, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511126
Arzy, Marla 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66224850
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45 Rome (AZ)
19:15 Aden (AL)
19:20 Beirut (ME)
21:29 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Amman (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:50 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Jeddah (RJ)
13:45 Damascus (RJ)
14:00 Aden (RJ)
15:15 Larnaca (RJ)
15:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:40 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Beirut, Paris (AF)

Home News

'Pharmacists' complaints continue

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As a follow-up to a memorandum submitted to the Health Ministry in the past week concerning pharmacists' work conditions, Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) President Musmar met with Acting Health Minister Abdul Karim Al-Bashir Monday in order to urge the government to take action.

The memo, which the JPA submitted to the government, demanded equality between public and private sectors concerning wages which should be paid from 60 per cent to 90 per cent, said Mr. Musmar in a telephone conversation with the Jordan Times.

He said that the JPA is demanding that the public sector should also be included in the "system" offered to the doctors of the private sector and that they should be granted a 30 per cent allowance on the total of their salaries like the private sector.

He discussed these issues and with Acting Health Minister Abdul Karim Al-Bashir at a meeting in his office today, said Mr. Musmar.

According to the Jordan News agency, Petra, the minister said that the government would study the demands and try to give incentives to the pharmacists on the JPA dispute with

the Health Ministry over the recent decision which allows any pharmacist to open drugstores. Mr. Musmar said that the JPA has filed a case at the Higher Court of Justice. We are suing the Health Ministry because we consider its action as violating the law and the norms and regulations of the country, said Mr. Musmar. He did not know when the court will issue its verdict in this matter.

The Health Ministry last August ruled that pharmacists are allowed to open drugstores country-wide, but the JPA said it believed that such a move would not contribute to offering good public health services.

Mr. Musmar told a press conference that allowing such practices would create an imbalance in the profession. The health ministry had said that pharmacists will be allowed to open drugstores in the Amman region two years after applying for licenses but Mr. Musmar noted that such a move can only cause a congestion of pharmacies in the capital. It is predicted that the present one pharmacy for every 10,000 residents will increase to one for every 4,000 while the ratio remains low in rural regions where it now stands at one pharmacy for every 30,000 citizens.

Health Ministry sources said that licenses were issued last year to 192 new drugstores and that 496 applications are still waiting their turn. Most of the applicants, they said, are seeking to open stores within the Amman region.

London Club deadlock

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new proposal led by Jordan in its negotiations with the London Club of creditor banks made little headway and the Kingdom's efforts to settle its commercial debts remain in limbo, sources said today.

However, Jordan is in a comfortable position since it has until 30, 1993, to work out an agreement with the London Club, which carries about \$5.2 billion of the Kingdom's debt, he added, although not fully granted, is expected to be given by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is reshed with Jordan's plan in accordance to an economic restructuring programme worked late last year, the sources

It is a foregone conclusion Jordan would get this extension from the IMF, which is very pathetic to the Kingdom's creditors, said Fahed Faneek, economic analyst and columnist.

Her running into a deadlock the rejection by the London Club of a rescheduling proposal and its own refusal to accept a formula suggested by creditor banks, Jordan sent a letter to the steering committee of the club in November. But this also could not break the deadlock since the banks did not accept the new terms that had been offered, said a Western source, "since then there has been no evolution in the negotiations," added the source, who demanded anonymity.

He said as well as other economic experts said there was "danger" of the creditor banks' rejection of the firm position as by Jordan by posing bank difficulties for the Kingdom's debts and imports.

It was a possible way for the Kingdom to hit back at Jordan for its refusal to accept the terms suggested by the steering committee, said the Western source. "It is no longer valid since the Kingdom is the creditor and it is itself since they can hope to get every bank in order to turn down letters of

credits issued in Jordan." The basic disagreement between Jordan and the London Club stems from the creditors' refusal to grant the Kingdom terms that they see as setting a precedent in international debt relief and rescheduling negotiations.

"Apparently they feel that Jordan is too small a country to set a precedent," said Dr. Faneek. "If indeed that is the case, then Jordan can very well wait for another major Third World debtor to negotiate a deal with the London Club and then follow suit," he told the Jordan Times.

Jordan and the creditors disagree over applicable interest rates, discount on buy-back of partial debts and conversion of another part to investments and bonds in Jordanian dinars.

The Kingdom has managed to secure "side deals" with some of the creditor banks which it is buying back part of its debts at discounted rates higher than 50 per cent on principal as well as overdue interest.

"If this process continues... Jordan's commercial debts may be reduced to one third of the nominal amount," Dr. Faneek wrote in a column last week.

In the meantime, some experts also argue that it is only a matter of time before Jordan could cut more separate bilateral deals with some of the London Club members outside an overall agreement with the group.

"Some of the Western banks are anxious to close their accounts with Jordan," said a European analyst. "However, the amounts involved are relatively smaller and would not make much of a dent in the overall amount and interest."

According to Dr. Faneek, Jordan can hope for continued support from the IMF in view of its strict adherence to the economic restructuring programme and the progress it has made in recovery.

Furthermore, he argues, the IMF — the international watchdog on external debt — ensures that the Third World could pay off its debts — wants to project Jordan as a showcase success in line with IMF directives and therefore would not undermine the Kingdom's approach.



KING, PREMIER AND ARMY CHIEF HOLD TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the armed forces, visited Monday the army general headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, along with other officials. King Hussein had a meeting with Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the armed forces. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Diplomatic appointment suggests thaw in Saudi-Jordanian relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The appointment by Saudi Arabia of a high-ranking diplomat to head its diplomatic mission in Amman this week is seen as a positive step towards mending the strain in Saudi-Jordanian relations.

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al-Bassam, who holds the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary — one rank below an ambassador — was named last week as the new Charge D'Affaires of the embassy in Amman. He replaces first secretary Abdul Rahman Al-Nasser as the senior-most Saudi diplomat in Jordan.

"It is a step in the right direction," said a senior official. "After all, relations between Arab countries could not remain strained for ever."

"It is only natural that Arab countries move to close gaps when they realise they have common objectives and interests," the official added.

"Jordan stands ready to reciprocate through all means and ways to any positive Arab move towards better relations and Arab solidarity," added the official, echoing the words of His Majesty King Hussein.

Saudi Arabia's relations with Jordan took a plunge after Amman refused to endorse the military option to end the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Riyadh, along with other Gulf Arab

states, suspended financial aid to Jordan and withdrew its ambassador from Amman in protest against the Jordanian stand.

Repeated efforts by Jordan to explain its position have been in vain and the appointment of Mr. Bassam as Charge D'Affaires in Amman appears to be the first sign of a positive response from Riyadh on the political level.

The Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia is still in place, but an expected visit by the King to Saudi Arabia to perform the Umra pilgrimage has not materialised.

In a Dec. 1 speech opening the winter session of Parliament the King said Jordan was committed to Arab solidarity and improved Arab relations, but indicated that the Kingdom felt it had done all it could to mend the strain in Arab ties in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

In its reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Lower House is expected to urge the King to continue his endeavours to reconcile with the Arab states which were angered by what they perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

"We appeal to you in the name of your people to pursue efforts, without despair... towards restoring solidarity among Arab and Muslim countries," reads a draft House reply to the King's speech.

"Good relations with the Arab and Muslim brothers are the only way to rebuild our strength and restore our role" in international politics, it said.

Lower House endorses reply to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Monday endorsed the final version of a reply to the Speech from the Throne as prepared by an ad hoc committee.

The Senate members discussed the reply speech in an open session and introduced slight amendments to it.

The reply speech drafting committee headed by Ahmad Obaidat included Kamel Sharif, Saeed Al-Tal, Jumaa Hammad and Hosni Ayyesh. The session was attended by Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thougban Hindawi and several Cabinet members. The reply speech is to

be submitted to King Hussein at the Royal Court Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Lower House of Parliament announced Monday it will hold an ordinary meeting Wednesday morning to review a host of topics with specific focus on issues related to health, water and irrigation.

A proposal on the amendment of a draft law on the general federation of Jordanian farmers submitted by 63 deputies will be discussed, said the announcement. Also on the agenda, is the draft law on press and publication which was endorsed in part by the Lower House in the extraordinary session last summer.

Arab orthodox church delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 43 personalities representing the Arab Orthodox Church in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip arrived in Amman Monday to take part in the fifth general Orthodox conference due to open in Amman Tuesday.

According to a committee preparing for the conference to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) a total of 500 persons were invited to attend the opening of the day long meeting which will be addressed by a panel which includes the Governor of Arab Jerusalem Rawhi Al-Khalib.

More than 150 delegation will take part in the deliberations which will discuss working papers dealing with the following topics: — The Arab Orthodox renaissance towards encouraging this process; — Holy places and means of safeguarding them in the face of illegal practices; — The creation of a special fund to promote the cause of the Arab Orthodox Church and its activities in the occupied territories as well as Jordan;

— Amendments to Jordanian laws and regulations favouring the Arab Orthodox Church in occupied Palestine and Jordan.

The one day conference is to be concluded by a press conference to sum up the deliberations of the day, according to Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber Chairman of the Orthodox Arab Society in the Kingdom.

He said that the conference, the fifth by the Orthodox community and the latest since the last meeting held in Jerusalem in 1956 will be held under the slogan: "Towards a Comprehensive Orthodox Renaissance." Members of the Orthodox Church in the occupied territories and Jordan he noted are estimated at 200,000. Their religious affairs and Church estate are handled mainly by the Greek clergy. One of the main aims of Tuesday's conference is to put an end to this status quo.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the Arab community is now seeking a speedy amendment to the 1958 Jordanian law on the Greek Orthodox Church in a bid to protect Arab rights and interests.

Ensur leaves for Brussels

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour left Amman for Brussels at the head of a Jordanian delegation which will participate in Jordanian-Belgian joint committee meetings due to begin Tuesday. The committee will discuss various ways of enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.

Villa For Rent In Khaldi

Ground floor, 240 sqm. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big fitted kitchen, big living area. Terrace looking into the garden. Unfurnished. First floor, 370 sqm. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, huge American fitted kitchen, big living/guest area, big terrace. Furnished and telephone. Big garden. Can rent separately or together. Telephone 840011

Premier visits veterinary vaccine centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday visited the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine (JCVC) where he examined the process of veterinary vaccine production and heard a study on the prospect of privatising the centre.

Accompanied by Agriculture Minister Faysal Khasawneh, the prime minister first toured the centre and then listened to a briefing by the centre's director Mukhlis Ammarin on production and other services.

Established in 1989, the centre first produced vaccines for the Jordanian market, but soon it was exporting doses to Arab countries notably Bahrain.

The JCVC, which was established with help of the German agency for Technical Development (GTZ) started off by producing 80 million doses of a number of vaccines for local and export markets but later raised the production to 170 million doses of which only half are being consumed in Jordan.

According to Dr. Ammarin, an important goal of the centre was to reduce the country's dependence on imported vaccines which are costly to buy.

He said the first types of vaccines produced at the JCVC in 1989 included vaccines to combat sheep pox, goat pox, brucella, anthrax and new cattle diseases.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker surveys vaccinations at the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine Monday (Petra Photo)

Sharif Zeid was briefed on the services offered by the centre and its exports to Arab and foreign countries which now include vaccines to provide immunity to the animals and also in the course of diagnosing diseases.

Dr. Ammarin said that the JCVC was organising training courses for Jordanian vets and laboratory technicians on the use of the vaccines. The study, which was presented on privatising the centre, showed that production was profitable for the country and with high returns for the exported products.

The prime minister expressed

interests in the study and requested that it be summarised so that further action can be taken, noting that privatisation was among the main concerns of the present government.

Dr. Ammarin, said that the centre, located 12 kilometres north of Amman, was set up in the course of implementing the (1986-1990) five years socio-economic development plan in Jordan and is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Ammarin told the Jordan Times that in his presentation to the prime minister he made it clear that hundreds of millions of vaccine doses were already produced by the centre and are now lying frozen in special stores awaiting marketing here and abroad.

Being a government controlled agency, he said, it is difficult to have access to foreign markets without having to go through numerous formalities which tend to impede the exporting processes.

The German government, which helped the centre to start in the first place, has agreed to provide Jordan with 2.5 million DM in order to help in the privatisation process so that the country can market more of the vaccines and operate on a purely commercial basis, said Dr. Ammarin.

He added that the prime minister listened to four studies revolving around production and marketing measures and was convinced that privatising the centre was of vital necessity to facilitate its work.

The prime minister, said Dr. Ammarin, expressed his deep appreciation for the German government's help in this concern. According to Dr. Ammarin, the centre is currently in contact with Sudan and Yemen on prospective exports of vaccines, but should the present government controlled system persist the centre has no good prospects to enter many foreign markets.

Sixth year of intifada marked

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Above the din of rhythmic applause and ululation, Palestinian activists Monday marked the start of the sixth year of the intifada and pressed Arabs worldwide to support the uprising.

"There is no way to stop the intifada before it achieves all its goals and before the Israelis withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arabs and Muslims should continue to do their duty and support the uprising," Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hameed Sayeh told an estimated 400-strong crowd at the former offices of the Palestine National Council in Jabal Hussein.

Sheikh Sayeh, his speech informally interpreted by a Palestine embassy information officer, saluted the scores of "martyrs" and political prisoners jailed since the uprising began December 1987. The anniversary comes as Middle East peace delegates launched the eighth round of peace negotiations in Washington early Monday. Hours before, suspected Palestinian gunmen killed three Israeli soldiers in a pre-dawn ambush, according to Associated Press reports. The deaths brought to 109 the number of Israelis killed since the end of 1987. At least 988 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops or civilians.

Rally speaker Mamdouh Abbadi, head of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, however, places the Palestinian death toll at 1,597 and said his organization will continue to support welfare programmes in the occupied territories. According to other rally leaders, 2,540 homes and 136,000 olive, fig and fruit trees have been destroyed by Israeli troops in the past five years. One hundred and ten Palestinians have been deported.

Celebration speaker Abbas Zaki, head of the Higher Com-

mittee of the Intifada, said the destruction of property and disruption of lives has "added force to Palestinian resistance." "The intifada emphasised there is no way to live under Israeli authority and that Palestine is Arab territory... Palestinians should never give up," said Mr. Zaki, who is also a Fateh central committee member.

Mr. Zaki's comments were also informally translated during the rally attended by the Palestine ambassador, Palestine Liberation Organisation members and Jordan's wide-ranging Palestinian community.

Suicide doctor received psychiatric help

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 38-year-old doctor Abdullah Rubaihat, who killed his daughter aged one and his wife 25 before committing suicide, has been undergoing psychiatric treatment for some time, hospital sources said Monday.

Dr. Rubaihat studied medicine but later specialised in hospital management. He held a masters degree and was appointed to assistant director to Al Bashir

Hospital in Amman.

Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that police investigations and the coroners office firmly believe that the man had killed himself after killing members of his family.

The police earlier reported that they were tipped off about the bodies lying in their home in Rashid district in Western Amman.

Going, going, gone ...

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition hall at the Philadelphia Hotel turned into a cooperative estate sale Monday, as prospective buyers wheeled and dealt for the best buys in antiques.

Specialising in rugs, paintings, vases and furniture, the second auction organised by the owners of Auction Corner seemed to be the place for collectors.

"Our first auction (Oct. 7) was so successful we decided to organise another two session-event a couple months later," said Nasser Al-Abadi, one of the company's owners before the afternoon bidding began. "The auction business is very lucrative," he said without revealing any figures.

While the event was organised by the owners of Auction Corner, many of the items up for grabs were being sold by private individuals and companies. "When we advertised our auction before the October event, many people were sceptical about bringing collectable pieces for us to auction off," said Mr. Al-Abadi. "However, after the event, these individuals realised that our auction offered a good opportunity to sell a wide variety of artifacts," he added.

The auction not only attracted dealers and individuals in search of a market to sell valuable items. It also provided a forum for collectors to browse, buy and gain experience in evaluation antiques.

"Not only is the auction a convenient way to purchase antiques, it also offers buyers collectable goods at low prices, much lower than in the shops," explained one of the auction's organisers.

However, one antique collector and veteran to the auction-world from Britain was disappointed by the base prices of the antiques for bid. "The prices here are higher than the prices in England," she noted browsing around before bidding began. "But it's difficult to find oriental goods at auctions back home," she added.

For the less experienced antique buyers, the auction offered an opportunity to become more familiar with quality and prices. "You go to a dealer and he tells you a price is worth X, but you don't really know if that's real value," said one Jordanian novice. "I came to the auction to see what other people consider to



Start the bidding: An item is displayed for auction (Photo by Youssef Al-Ahlan)

be valuable," he added. Meanwhile, others less concerned about price milled around the antique collection in search of that little treasure of sentimental value.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS
- Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saadi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Al-Falaha.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amir at the Al-Balqa Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkcreens by three artists from Gaza Faysal Al-Hasani, Kamel Al-Mughani and Leila Shawar at Abdul Hameed Shomam Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Laban at Phoenix Art Gallery.
- Sculpture exhibition by artist Ahmad Saad Mohlabati at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al-Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Nehaya Khafaf at Baladna Art Gallery.
- FILM
- German film entitled "Kasper Hauser," at the Abdul Hameed Shomam Foundation — 6:30 p.m.
- FLOWER SHOW
- The annual Christmas and New Year flower show of the Jordanian branch of Ikebana International at the Marriott Hotel (opening ceremony at 1 p.m.)

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social
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Western Asia
(ESCWA)

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الجنة الاقتصادية
لأفريقيا الغربية آسيا
(الاسكوا)

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The View from Four Circle

Hungry for food, hungry for the truth of history

By Rami G. Khouri

Pow! Zoom! Bang! Machineguns on jeeps. Colin Powell with his map show. Starving Somalis and neatly groomed American correspondents in khaki safari suits. Black boys with guns. American soldiers with food. The imagery is surrealistic.

The American government and television industry have discovered Somalia — and the rest of us had better hold on to our history, culture and humanity before it is whisked away from us by the same Western troop carriers that now bring soldiers carrying rifles in one hand and a soft spot for the starving African masses on the other. The large-scale deployment of American and some other troops in Somalia to end the anarchy and allow food supplies to be delivered to starving people is a highly complex situation, morally and politically, that defies simplistic, black-and-white, right-and-wrong approaches.

I unreservedly applaud the mechanics and logistics of using foreign troops to provide security in order to allow relief supplies to reach the starving in Somalia. I am delighted with the pictures of American and French troops and their colleagues from other countries carrying out a mission of mercy. On the surface, this appears to be a humanitarian endeavour, and on the surface we should applaud it.

However, as usual in the Middle East and the Arab World, below the surface lies a murky and disjointed world where what you see with your eyes does not necessarily correspond to the full human reality that actually exists. Specifically, I am fearful that we are now being subjected to a western, largely American-driven, media onslaught that is as massive and powerful as the waves of marines coming ashore at Mogadishu — it is also just as culturally alien and politically suspect for most of the people of this region.

The images we get already, the caricatures and stereotypes through which the western media will tell their simple story of black Arab/African savagery and American/western compassion, and the many entertaining and mediagenic tales we will hear in the next several months, will collectively rewrite the facts of Somalia, its people, and the involvement of western powers in and around it in the last several decades. Repeating my support for foreign intervention to feed the starving in Somalia, I would make three ancillary comments about the ironies and the deeper implications of the situation there:

1) The question asked often is why the West intervenes in Somalia but not in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but I think this is the wrong question to ask. Somalia reflects starvation due to the collapse of government, state, economic, and social structures, while Bosnia is political and ethnic malice due to the collapse of an artificial old order. People suffer in both places, but for very different reasons. Bosnians deserve help, but their situation is very far from that of the Somalis, geographically and politically.

The better question to ask, I would suggest, is: By what moral, political or nutritional criteria does the United States decide to send its troops to save women and children in Somalia while other American troops maintain an embargo on Iraq that results in the suffering and death of women, and children there? In fact, I imagine that some ships, air force facilities and other material are going to Somalia directly from doing duty in the region of Iraq.

There are serious flaws in the American attempt to paint the Somalia intervention as purely humanitarian. I suspect it is, at one level, I do not think the U.S. is trying to establish a political or

strategic foothold in the Horn of Africa, or intervene in Somalia for some other sinister reasons. I accept the humanitarian impulse. But it hides decisions in a coherent and fair manner, preferring expediency to principle. I sense that it simply accentuates the capacity of the United States government to maintain its blatant double standards, whether in implementing U.N. resolutions, demanding human rights improvements from its friends or foes, or, now, bringing food and order to one corner of the Arab World while applying pressure that results in malnutrition, disease, death and a possible breakdown of order in another part of that same Arab World.

2) American officials and media are selling this intervention on humanitarian grounds only, without — as usual — considering the complexities of recent or ancient history. The prevalent explanation we are given by the West is that selfish, uncaring native gunmen and warlords are primarily responsible for the starvation of the Somalis. This is true if one's universe started in 1991, and if one's moral parameters extended little further than shopping malls and television entertainment. It is a gross distortion of historical fact, and a cheap and facile, but unsuccessful, abdication of political responsibility and complexity.

This fractured, irrational and suffering Somalia did not emerge from the Arab/African soil on the power of its own demerit, callousness or inhumanity. It is a product of modern history, the ultimate consequence of colonialism, decolonisation, fragile statehood, autocratic rule, and, consequently, the penchant of such unstable, largely made-in-Europe states to rely on foreign aid to survive. Somalia is not different from most of the Arab and African world; it is only more extreme and obvious in revealing its basic vulnerabilities. It is the artificial and irrational core of Arab-African modern statehood stripped of its external trappings. We are not all so vulnerable, but most of us in the Arab-African world have operated by the same rules that pertained to Somalia in recent decades.

The United States and the Soviet Union played with Somalia and its former president Mohammad Siad Barre for decades. They had him and others in the area play a humiliating game of ideological musical chairs — when the music stopped, the local players scurried for a seat, for attention, for survival. If they succeeded, they were offered food, money, guns, accolades as vital strategic partners, and an occasional visit to the White House or the Kremlin as prizes for having played the game by the rules, for having been good, obedient boys.

Washington and Moscow callously switched sides between Somalia and Ethiopia in recent decades and, when the Horn of Africa lost its strategic value in the post-cold war era, they both left — Russia to suffer its own excesses as a state based on lies, and the United States to venture off into dream worlds where mighty powers used their military force to save the lives of starving children in faraway places.

Somalia today is a direct consequence of a combination of two deeply intertwined factors: the autocracy and corruption of domestic leaders such as Siad Barre, and the tradition of foreign powers, especially the U.S. and former USSR, that callously exploit such leaders and countries for their own geo-strategic aims. Somalia is the orphaned child of colonialism, and its former guardians are now being asked to come back and save their wayward child. Somalia is not distant from the United States in

moral and political terms; it is very close, almost far. 3) Most of the western media will not do two things: a) mindlessly parrot the general rationales, and explain forth by the United States government (the Colin Powell Show minus Stormin' Norman, because the enemy party lurks clear here, perhaps because the enemy party lurks historical archives and the State Department), and b) Pentagon compelled to provide entertainment for a uniformed and uninterested domestic audience, they wage the Somalia intervention in a combination of A humanitarianism and Arab/African deficiencies that a dangerously close to racism.

The media and the western officials from whom they take their cue will try to avoid dealing with the deeper historical political issues that explain the agony of Somalia. They will too difficult or demanding, or not sufficiently appealing viewers or to the dog food manufacturers who ultimately want to, delve deeper into the real causes of the problem. Somalia. They will find it awkward to draw parallels to political forces in Somalia in the recent past and existing forces in Arab countries that are portrayed as not only in the United States, but as strategic partners in this "coalition" we keep hearing about — a coalition that will to rewrite history in Somalia and the Horn of Africa just as to do in Iraq and the Gulf and Kurdistan.

These may be irritating issues to raise in a moment that orchestrated as one of humanitarian splendour. I find it tant, however, to raise them for the simple reason that I like to avoid a repeat of this situation in other Arab or lands.

I disagree with those who say that this is the start of a new U.S. force being used for good purposes around the world, up side of the so-called "new world order." This is not a future. It is about the past, about ugly monsters and is ghosts that have come back to haunt us and to remind us a collective mistakes — mistakes of post-colonial confusion, national statehood, corrupt indigenous leaderships, depend foreign power, the frailty of the collective Arab/African and expedient, whimsical superpowers.

We cannot escape the verdict of our rich but retributive. We cannot make gross mistakes and engage in gross monumental scale and expect history to thank us in inhumanity. In this part of the world, history is one of corrective forces we have to rely on, given our distortions, regional inequities, and global dependencies. We are able to fool people for a few years or a few decades, but we will be held accountable before the historical men our ancient and vibrant culture. Somalia is precisely reckoning.

It is a sad but important tale that does not easily fit simplistic imperatives of American television entertainment is why we have to be very careful in the coming months: the racism and the rewriting of history that will be used again and to demand that even those who profess to do good stand for a moment before the tribunal of our shared history, and really understand what it means to be hungry, food, dignity, or just plain honesty.

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Hypocrisy or what?

THOSE AMONG us who are shedding tears over the U.N. intervention in Somalia to save the starving Somalis from famine and internecine killing or are lamenting the U.S. decision to spearhead such an international military intervention, need to answer one simple question: Where were they throughout the past two years while Somalia was being torn apart by famine, disease and civil war?

Calling on the fighting factions in Somalia to peacefully settle their differences, demanding a mediocre Arab intervention or insisting on an Islamic action of the kind demonstrated at last week's Jeddah meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference over Bosnia, we are deceiving ourselves. Such pious calls are not worth the ink they are written with. Arab and Islamic silence in the face of the catastrophe that was unfolding in Somalia has effectively deprived the Arab and Islamic Worlds of the right to object to anything that is being done by the outside world to help save Somalis from themselves. There is obviously a strong case to conclude that the Arab and Islamic inaction forfeits any of their lingering claims for feeling betrayed by the non-Arab and non-Muslim worlds.

The West's belated military intervention in Somalia is blemished of course by its shameful aloofness from taking effective action to stop the atrocities and crimes against humanity that have been perpetrated by Serbian forces against Muslim Bosnians and Croats for the past eight months. Western inaction to halt the revolting ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia will continue to tarnish the West's altruistic protestations vis-a-vis the situation in Somalia and cause Arabs and Muslims to question the motives of the countries that dispatched their armies to the Horn of Africa. The Arab and Muslim countries, however, are not standing on terra firma themselves since until this point in time they have only demonstrated rhetorical stance in the face of the deteriorating situation in both Somalia and Bosnia. It could be said though that Arab and Muslim inaction has created the vacuum through which other powers found an opportunity for action.

However, the chorus of voices crying wolf against U.S. intervention in Somalia and their fear of American "designs" for either Yemen or the Sudan is, even if remotely credible, at best hypocritical. Even if the devil himself could put an end to the misery of the people of Somalia and the insanity of its leaders, he should be welcomed. Perhaps what our politicians should be urging and demanding from the U.S. otherwise is to parallel its "brotherly" intervention in Somalia with a similar one in Yugoslavia. Capitalising on this linkage on behalf of Arabs and Muslims is more fruitful than indulging in U.S. bashing and conspiracy theories.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS THE Americans head for Somalia their hatred-filled eyes are fixed on Sudan which has adamantly refused to be subjugated to the Americans will, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. While we wish that the Americans arrive and their sinking in Somalia be similar to their entrance into Vietnam and their eviction from that country in defeat, we also wish that all people in the Horn of Africa in general and in Sudan in particular as well as the Arab people at large follow the Americans' eyes and objectives and work in concern to place skins of Somalia's bananas under their feet so that their lives can be transformed into a real hell, the paper continued. It said it is unreasonable to believe that a fierce monster tightening his fingers and claws on the throat of millions of Arab children in Iraq, Palestine and tens of other areas in our Arab lands can be transformed over night into Father Christmas or Mother Teresa, laden with bread instead of napalm and milk instead of cluster shells, and it is unbelievable to see children sitting on the knees of the monster who is used to crushing people under his tanks and bringing death to them through bombs and through siege. The paper said that President Bush has called the Somali citizens Somali brothers. This name alone is sufficient for us to imagine the magnitude of the disaster awaiting the people of the Horn of Africa and to imagine the objective sought by Washington and the aid which it plans to offer to the separatist groups in southern Sudan at a time when they are about to surrender, the paper said. These separatist groups, said the paper, are no more in a position to pursue the destruction of the Arab country employing Israeli weapons and backed by the United States allies, it said. The so-called Mission of Mercy, the paper pointed out, seeks to save the Sudanese separatist groups and not to save the Sudanese and Somali people. Excessive zeal displaying by Mr. Bush before he leaves the White House manifests his intention of placing the coming Clinton administration in an impasse difficult to handle and a quagmire from which it is not easy to disentangle, the paper continued. The Kuwaiti government has welcomed the new American invasion and so did Israel, the paper noted. It said that Washington's allies in the Gulf war are not concealing their delight over Washington's fleeing its muscles, but as we follow the developments we note a warning given to the U.S. administration by its ambassador to Kenya, who was consulted about the adventure, but whose advice was overcome by the arrival of American naval ships to Somalia's coast, said the daily. It said that in the ambassador's view America will face defeat like that tasted in Vietnam and Lebanon. The defeat could be repeated in Somalia in a more grotesque and more humiliating manner for the "strong American" who is ruling unopposed over the world, proud of his muscles and the length of his claws and the toughness of his tusks, the paper said.

Of heroes and hero-worship

By Yasser Alwan

I BORROW the title of Thomas Carlyle's famous nineteenth-century work because its theme — that history is the story of great men with divine missions — perfectly illustrates one fundamental aspect of modern Arab political culture. For all his genius, Carlyle's perspective on the unfolding of history has been challenged and overtaken by more sophisticated schools of thought, most notably historical materialism. Yet whether or not one accepts the assumptions of the latter, it is difficult to deny that the simplicity of Carlyle's argumentation is its biggest crutch.

However, modern Arab political culture, perhaps beginning with Gamal Abdul Nasser, introduced a paradigm that has cultivated the very essence of Carlyle's propositions in almost every independent Arab government since. Through the various channels of disseminating information, both overt and covert, the contemporary history and policy successes of each Arab regime have been glorified solely as the outcome of the super-human efforts of one man — the all-powerful, all-knowing leader. In Egypt, for instance, one could literally see this phenomenon take shape when Anwar Sadat's portrait replaced Nasser's in the early 1970s as the decor of the regime of nearly every public and private establishment. Sadat created then imposed a myth of himself as the supreme Egyptian leader from which all good things originate to distance himself from his predecessor. In 1981, the cycle was repeated once again with portrait and myth calculated to induce a nation-wide amnesia regarding Sadat. Elsewhere as well, Arabs have made de facto flags of men's faces.

Surely, since Nasser at the very latest, Arab regimes have been and continue to be extremely personalised. Is it not true that the control of so much power over so many by so few leads to a megalomania (tinged with a desperation to hold onto that power) that perpetuates this cycle, as in the cases of Sadat in the 1970s and Saddam Hussein in the 1980s? Arab leaders have attempted — through an almost unparalleled cultural onslaught — to cultivate an image of themselves as the heroes and legitimate heirs of Arab societies. Yet this spectacle is not limited to the Arab World, although it is more chronic and acute here because official channels of information consistently feature the successes of the national leader but rarely,

if ever, the failures. More fascinating, perplexing, and disturbing than the fabrication of such mythologies as the personality cult is their profound impact on ordinary people. Under circumstances of prosperity, stability, plurality, legality, and democracy, this deception probably influences a given population less than in situations of scarcity, illegitimacy, and tyranny — which are unfortunately the prevailing conditions in this part of the world. When people feel that their destinies are being dictated to them from

"What has happened to the Arab World in the space of the last two generations is the focus of serious study for all sorts of scholars and intellectuals. The facts have been studied from various perspectives, but we are not much closer to adjusting our social fabric to better meet the needs of our citizens so that they might excel on the world stage."

above, when they have lost much of the control over the course of their own lives, when they believe that their children's lives will remain as unpredictable as their own — as marionettes on a string — they tend to seek immediate, formulaic, short-sighted rationalisations as their solutions for the simple reason that these appear to offer more hope on which to hang dreams than the elaborate complications of serious responses. The personality cult is one such misguided rationalisation: because we have few genuine heroes, the bureaucracies and official media have manufactured images of our leaders as a political instrument justified as cultural-psychological ne-

cessity. In this light, the events surrounding the return of His Majesty King Hussein from his treatment abroad were, very literally, fantastic. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event that left no doubt whatsoever that Jordanians revere the King as their genuine hero. But the festivities also profoundly disturbed me, for what I saw as genuine enthusiasm and euphoria during that first day of the King's return became a masquerade for a grimmer reality over the following days. How loud do people have to play their radios and how often do they have to mindlessly beep their horns and shoot their guns in the air (is this any way to celebrate?) to demonstrate their joy?

After that first day, it was hard to tell whether Jordanians were celebrating to celebrate the King's arrival or just to convince themselves (and others) of their excitement. Was the revelry and mayhem an outward sign of a far worse turmoil? Was it a different form of siege mentality, a manifestation of confusion, the mark of an absence which is nevertheless a fact of everyday consciousness? On the second and third days following the King's safe arrival, Amman's streets and circles took on an air of confusion for the King's presence was no longer available for people to focus their energies on. The celebrations, or what was left of them, appeared like desperate attempts to find something more to believe in.

One man alone, no matter how great, cannot fulfill the psychological needs of an entire society. But where are the other authentic heroes of the Arab World? Where are our exemplary personalities, those spokespersons for our besieged dignity and self-esteem that people can believe and take pride in, and strive to be like? The United States, for example, has manufactured its heroes with as much efficiency as it used to manufacture cars: from cowboys and astronauts to Superman, Wonder Woman, and even Bat Simpson. Of course, there are the less glamorous but more believable heroes too: people from all walks of life who strive with passion for beliefs that are beyond mere personal interests and profit, like the artists, musicians, writers, and athletes that I look up to with awe and a little hope. The comparison I wish to make, however, is not between America and the Arab World of today, but between the Arab World of my father's generation

and the one I live in today. What has happened to the Arab World in the space of the last two generations is the focus of serious study for all sorts of scholars and intellectuals. The facts have been studied from various perspectives, but we are not much closer to adjusting our social fabric to better meet the needs of our citizens so that they might excel on the world stage. This question, I believe, must be posed in another way for it is not answerable entirely in terms of history or politics, technology or communications, or even tradition and modernity. We must ask ourselves this: What — beyond the journalistic facts — has happened to the Arab World?

Our quest for fabrication of, and belief in, cardboard heroes is bound to lead to disillusionment or worse. A case in point is Iraq's Saddam Hussein, the man most responsible for the most serious trauma that Arabs have faced in nearly fifty years. A significant number of Jordanians (while not from the most influential segment of the population, they are nonetheless an important part of it) truly believe that Saddam Hussein is a hero, one of these self-proclaimed, fly-by-night saviours of the Arabs who blindly rush to idolise. Is it because he "stood up" to the West and survived, or because he fired a few Scuds towards Israel that few Jordanians applaud him? If so, then they are truly deceiving themselves with such superficialities. One of the most painful situations for the thousands of Iraqis who have otherwise found safe shelter and compassion in Jordan since the Gulf crisis is sitting in a taxi cab and listening to the driver sing the praises of the man who has driven them out of their homes. Are these Jordanians so despondent as to cherish a man who slaughters his own people?

Too many Arabs are seeking their lives elsewhere, in the vague glitter of the West or the counterfeit declarations of men like Saddam Hussein. That life is elsewhere also means that life here is perforated by a hole, an absence that they cannot or do not know how to fulfill. Instead of taking advantage of this affliction, our leaders must try to heal it at once, for this is not a problem of committees, conferences, and symposia; it cannot be quantified, but it has been ignored. This is a problem of individuals, a problem that, if one looks carefully, lurks in our schools, offices, and homes. If not treated immediately, it might become gangrenous and even fatal.

Drifting despite the helmsman's strong vis

By Salameh Ne'matt

IF THE Interior Ministry's decision last week to reject the licensing of two existing political parties proves anything, it is that Jordan's political system has succeeded, it seems, in doing one sure thing through the democratisation process: Issuing laws that grant the old system the licence to continue its old habits, with only some cosmetic changes. What is worse, our elected Parliament, which we thought was going to break-up the old system, has become instrumental in institutionalising it by providing a legitimacy that was lacking in the pre-1989 era. And, naturally, what applies to the Political Parties Law applies to the Press and Publications Law and a host of other bills endorsed or yet to be endorsed by our legislature.

But what are we complaining about? The government? Or the Parliament? And who is responsible for maintaining the old system three years into the democratisation process? The executive branch, or us, for electing a Parliament that seems to favour and cherish the status quo?

It is too simplistic of course to blame the interior minister for implementing a law that was democratically endorsed by Parliament and that keeps the heart of the democratisation process in the hands of a minister and leaves legislation open to the widest interpretations.

In fact, some of us believe that there is something seriously wrong in our new-old political system. The government's refusal to legalise the Baathists and the Communists, neither of which is perceived as a threat to the establishment, is only the latest manifestation of the failure of the system to live up to our democratic aspirations or expectations.

For despite all His Majesty the King's declarations of Jordan's commitment to the democratisation process, manifested in dozens of highly-publicised speeches, decrees and statements, undemocratic practices continue to happen as though the King's words are falling on deaf ears. We are increasingly led to believe that pronouncements of the political leadership are being dismissed or ignored by the tools of the executive branch, be they ministers or institutions. Things appear even more farcical when we see parliamentarians acting far less democratically than the government. Examples include the House speaker taking people to court for criticising Parliament and deputies introducing amend-

ments to the governm

osed Press Law that fu the freedom of expre

Some of us are furth sioned when we see th ment shy away from through with policies forms they were origi dated to pursue. We denied to hear that sev bers of the Cabinet ar to the Middle East pea and are dissociating it from the draft Jord negotiations agenda.

The underlying pr seems, is that the few we had since 1989 have consistent or coherent orientation, due to the that gave precedence to balance, government sensus and policies of ment rather than the d tical vision enshrined leadership's thinking. O agree, at least, that y be half-pregnant; you e secular and fundame the same time. You c for the peace process an it, and, finally, you o both democratic and cratic. This will not need, in the government vision and not met o ending compromises and ing acts. We need hold a clear course that is b create enemies for the ment, but also real fin supporters who will around that vision.

As things stand, any ment will be powerless to a political system the herently change-reas new approach and criteria, not to men faces must be introd forming governments: it not only oriented to us vote of confidence from ment, but mainly accou the people and their wif If the leadership repre people's aspirations, an agree it does, then there a way to realise these ap through a political sys mitted to implementing ership's vision. It is no acceptable to go on a talking about democ without finding the med that guarantees its acti tion. Democracy, i genuine reforms in the tions and laws of the And B not do the job. And b Parliament for instanc the status quo does not e are political leaders from national responsibility.

The writer, a former member of the Jordan Ti the correspondent of London-based Al Hayat paper and the Arab ser the BBC in Amman.

Features

Obeid urges Arad's release

YORK (Agencies) — A Shiite Muslim cleric, who has been held in custody by Israel since 1986, urged the release of Arad, Mr. Rabin's defense minister at that time.

The airman has been missing since his plane went down during a bombing mission over Lebanon in 1986.

Mr. Rabin said Israel was "disappointed that all the efforts of the United States, and all the international community, including the U.N., ended for all practical purposes" after the last Western hostages held in Lebanon were released.

"The time has arrived. Let's put an end, on both sides," Mr. Rabin said.

Sheikh Obeid said he has been treated well, was in good health and suffered no hardship.

"I do not try to deny the fact that I have been and still am supportive of military operations against Israel, in Israel," he said.

Asked whether he would continue to preach the destruction of Israel, he replied: "Yes. The answer is definitely yes."

Israel accused Sheikh Obeid of being one of the masterminds of kidnappings of westerners in the 1980s. He declared in the interview that he was against hostage-taking.

Jordan cannot be squeezed further

(Continued from page 1)

...this question of dignity now and today. You have a process that does not discriminate, that does not discriminate human rights, and yet it is as to a discussion of the situation without any reference to the human content of disaster and that is (inviting) it.

And whose fault is that? Well, the parties. Israel will discuss human rights if it is issued regionally. Our Arab labour do not want to discuss an rights regionally. And the issue, as we know from Ottawa round, is not to be issued because family reunification is an issue on which Israel is a position. They say 'we not compensate over the re- issue of four decades.' No- is asking for compensation Israel, but one is asking for a compensation the international community indeed from the sponsor's talks. We are asking for intellectual generosity, innovation once.

There has to be inter- dependence in our region. (Some tries), say 'we have given in dollars to the Arab coun- as some said in the bilateral talks. The World has presented a report on object of disparity and it is, I

think, very well worth considering as one indicator of progress. Q: Your Highness, can you conceive of a political peace process in the total absence of a military peace process or armament control with the aim of introducing disarmament at a given stage? A: Security is three-fold: Non-conventional weapons, conventional weapons and ... terrorist activity. Security is comprehensive in that it includes people's security, economic and social related issues, and I cannot conceive effectively of confidence-building taking an abstract like the Helsinki process which is separate from the political environment of peace and the human environment of peace.

Q: We have an armament race — a race between two parties to the conflict — Israel and Syria. Saudi Arabia might turn out to be a third partner. In a situation like this, how can one conceive or believe in solutions if you have the level of armament turning up all the time? A: I cannot conceive at all of any solution that will be enhanced by the massive purchase in billions of dollars of weapons to the region; not least of all since the Gulf war by Gulf countries and effectively in the absence of a concept of security that is applied to everybody in the region.

...the peace process is probably where it should be," he told foreign reporters in Amman. "It's a long, tedious process because we're talking about a variety of complex issues that have existed for more than 40 years ... and which touch on every facet of our lives."

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Kuwait sees no end to military alliance with West

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait, mugged once and living in a dangerous neighbourhood, is acutely aware that if thugs strike again it couldn't put up much of a fight.

But the emirate now enjoys a close military relationship with western armies that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in the Gulf war last year, and external security has not been much of a headache.

Kuwaitis have spent most of the past 18 months recovering from the Iraqi occupation and putting their house back in order.

Only now are they starting to think deeply about the implications of being so dependent on people who live thousands of miles away and who do not share their religion or lifestyle.

Analysts and diplomats say that with minimal dissent, Kuwaitis are coming to the conclusion that for the foreseeable future the strategy they have chosen is the only game in town.

"Even the average Kuwaiti will say he prefers U.S. forces to any other," said Abdullah Al Shaiji, assistant professor of political science at Kuwait University.

"As long as (Iraqi president) Saddam Hussein is in his den, as long as Kuwait has all this wealth, we're going to stick to this and there won't be widespread antagonism," said the academic, who has conducted polls on the question.

"Ninety per cent of the Kuwaiti people are behind a strong military relationship with the West," said a retired Kuwaiti brigadier.

"It's a question of survival." The strategy is a radical departure from policy before the Iraqi invasion. In those days Kuwait took an aggressively neutral stance in international politics and tried to balance its powerful neighbours off against each other.

It also sought security by playing an active part in regional organisations like the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

But the Gulf crisis reduced the Arab League to a cipher and Kuwaitis, both in private and public, remain deeply suspicious of the Arab countries which sympathised with Iraq.

"We have been traumatised and our relations with the Arab World have been affected by the trauma," said Abdullah Al Nafisi, an academic and politician.

As for the GCC, the organisation has been racked by internal disputes over borders and cannot agree on the rudiments of a regional common market, let alone on a truly deterrent joint defence force.

"It's clear that the GCC isn't about to emerge as a credible defence arrangement for Kuwait. It won't be a NATO," said one western diplomat.

Kuwait's own armed forces, however much Kuwait expands them and buys them powerful new weapons, could not hold out long against any of its neighbours — Iraq, Iran or Saudi Arabia.

The population is too small, the standard of living too high and the way of life too comfort-

able for large numbers of Kuwaitis to volunteer for the rigours of a military career.

A U.S. sergeant on joint manoeuvres with the Kuwaiti army said the Kuwaitis did minimal physical training. "I guess they can pay others to defend them," he mused.

Kuwaiti officials speak of signing new military agreements with Russia and China, to complement those it already has with the United States, Britain and France.

But diplomats say any agreements with these two other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council would probably be confined to purchases of low-cost weapon systems.

Signs of domestic opposition to the military relationship with the West are hard to find.

An unusual editorial in the newspaper Al Ra'y Al Amm last month revived the conspiracy theory, popular in radical Arab circles, that the Iraqi invasion was part of an international plot to destroy Iraq and take control of Kuwait.

"The danger is that we are being dragged, peoples and governments, into foreign provocations... We will be the first victims, in terms of our security and stability," it said.

Mr. Nafisi also has doubts about the relationship. "The cost will be enormous and there is no end in sight," he said.

"The role of the foreigner has been legitimised. The only choice is oblivion or to yield to western control — we have chosen the second. It's ridiculous now to talk of an independent will," he told a group of Islamists.

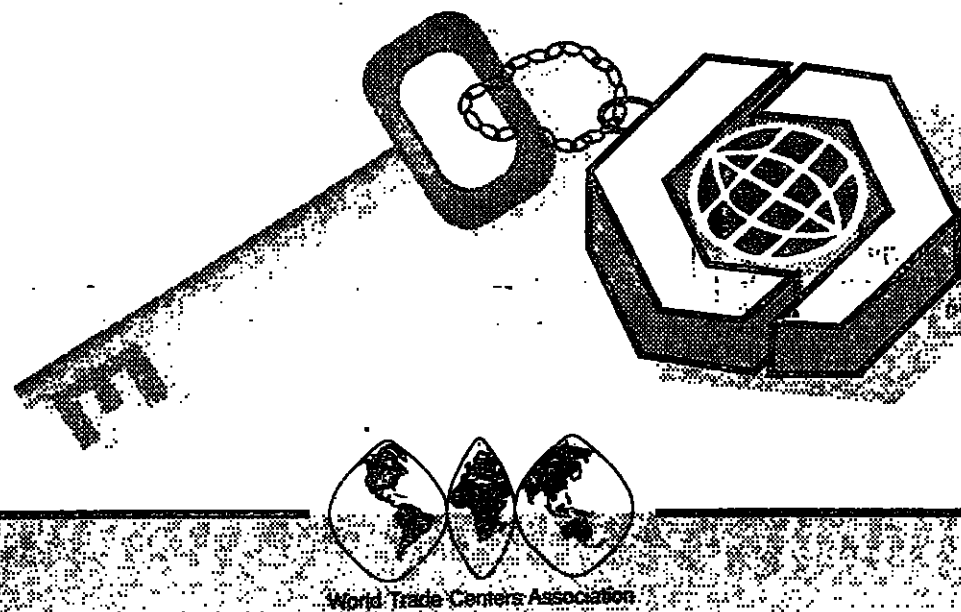
But the natural opponents of the United States — the pan-Arabist and the Islamic movements — did not make an issue of defence in the campaign for elections last month.

It's against the current to say anything against the defence agreements," said Mr. Shaiji.

So for the moment American troops, on rest and recreation from exercises in the desert, can walk the streets of Kuwait city in uniform and without fear.

"Thank you Bush," as the graffiti reads on the walls of the city, is still the message they will hear.

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U-22 Basketball Championship

Ahli, Orthodoxi clash in final today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Basketball fans will again have the chance to see Jordan's all-time basketball rivals, Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi, clash Tuesday in the final of the Under-22 Basketball Championship organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Both teams are now tied with nine points each in the overall standings after they beat Al Jalil and Al Hussein this week. However, their record throughout the U-22 championship was not as predictable as it has been in the past years.

Al Ahli lost to Al Jalil 71-39 in the first leg of the second round but came back to beat Al Jalil 65-60. Similarly Al Orthodoxi scored a big win of 74-51 over Al Jalil but later lost to Al Ahli 75-63.

Surprises and upsets were abundant in the first round as Al Jazireh beat Al Ahli but later lost to Al Orthodoxi, who later lost to Al Ahli.

Therefore, everything depends on the Ahli-Orthodoxi match tonight to determine the overall standings. Al Jalil plays Al Hussein earlier at Al Orthodoxi's Court.

The JBF will soon name the U-22 national team which will prepare to participate in the Asian Youth Basketball Championship due to be held in Hong Kong in February 1993.

STANDINGS

Team	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Al Orthodoxi	4	1	425	324	9
Al Ahli	4	1	379	322	9
Al Jalil	2	3	329	339	7
Al Hussein	0	5	337	485	5

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Cantona makes league debut for Man. United

LONDON (R) — Frenchman Eric Cantona finally made his English Premier League debut for Manchester United, helping his latest new club to a 2-1 win over local rivals Manchester City. The much-discussed Cantona, signed from Leeds last month, appeared as a half-time substitute but had his thunder stolen by Mark Hughes and Paul Ince who both scored spectacular United goals from long-range. The result took United into fifth place, nine points behind leaders Norwich.

Romania and Moldova work towards merging teams

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania and the neighbouring ex-Soviet republic of Moldova are taking steps towards unity by working towards merging their sports teams. "Talks about setting up a joint Olympic team will start early in 1993 but the actual thing cannot possibly occur before the 1996 Olympic Games, Romanian Olympic Committee President Lia Manoliu said Monday. Some two-thirds of Moldova's 4.3 million people are ethnic Romanians and most of the territory belonged to Romania before Moscow seized the area in 1940. The republic declared independence in August 1991 and is working towards gradual unification with Romania.

Mexico blasts St. Vincent 11-0

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico overwhelmed St. Vincent 11-0 to celebrate their successful completion of the second round of Concacaf World Cup qualifying for the 1994 tournament. The victory gave Mexico a total of eight points from six games and propelled them to the third round along with Honduras, who defeated Costa Rica 2-1. The Caribbean team, unaccustomed to the pollution in Mexico city, appeared exhausted after the first 20 minutes of the match. Honduras and Mexico will face El Salvador and Canada in the next round.

McColgan to run in next three London marathons

LONDON (R) — Britain's world 10,000 metres champion Liz McColgan will run in the 1993 London Marathon and also in 1994 and 1995, it was announced Monday. McColgan, who has already set her sights on running the Marathon at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has won the only two marathons she has run, in New York last year and Tokyo just three weeks ago. Among her targets in next year's race April 18 will be Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen's seven-year-old course and world record of 2:21.06. McColgan commented: I'm a relative newcomer to the marathon and there's still a lot to learn. But over the next few years I'm confident I will break the world record. I know I have the talent and capability to do it and the London Marathon gives me the ideal opportunity over the next three years.

London clubs to face minnows in English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Arsenal and London rivals Tottenham Hotspur will have to journey to some little-known English soccer outposts next month following the draw for the third round of the F.A. Cup. Arsenal play either famous cup giant-killer Yeovil or Hereford United, while Spurs are assured of facing part-time opposition in the shape of either Rugby or Marlow. Yeovil's cup tradition stretches back to 1949 when they beat then-mighty Sunderland. Coincidentally, Hereford were the next minor league club to beat top-flight opposition when they surprised Newcastle in 1972.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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MORE AT ODDS

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K Q 7 4 3	♠ 7 5 2	♠ A J 4	♠ 10 2
♥ K	♥ A 9 4	♥ Q 10 3	♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ A J 4	♦ 10 9 7 3	♦ 8 5	♦ 10 9 7 3
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ 8 5	♠ 10 9 7 3	♠ 10 9 7 3	♠ 8 5
♥ Q 10 8	♥ A J 4	♥ A J 4	♥ Q 10 8
♦ A J 7	♦ 10 9 7 3	♦ 10 9 7 3	♦ A J 7
♣ 6 2	♣ 6 2	♣ 6 2	♣ 6 2

The bidding: Three of ♣. You don't have to be a great mathematician to be a good bridge player. However, some knowledge of the probabilities is a *sine qua non* for choosing the correct line. Usually, when you have found an eight-card or better major-suit fit, you need look no further for the strain in which to play the hand. With square distribution, though,

especially with stoppers in the other suits, it can sometimes be right to elect to play in no trump, since the long major will be a source of tricks. South chose that course on today's hand, with happy results. Four spades must go down as the cards lie; there no trump has a chance. Against three no trump West led a low heart and the defenders took the first four tricks as you discarded a club from both your hand and dummy West then shifted to a diamond. How would you proceed?

There are two lines. One is to hope spades are 2-2, in which case the third spade would be an entry to the closed hand and declarer would score six spades, two diamonds and a club. The other is to presume spades are 3-1 and overtake the king of diamonds to rely on the club finesse. Which method of play should you adopt?

The chances of an even spade break are about 40 percent, while the club finesse will work half the time. It's not even close. Overtake the king of diamonds with the ace and lead a club to the jack. When that works, you're home. Justice has triumphed.

U.S. recapture Davis Cup

FORT WORTH (R) — Jim Courier redeemed himself for past Davis Cup failures by beating Jakob Hlasek Sunday to clinch the cup for the United States for the 30th time since 1900.

The number one player in the world, who was left shaken by his five-set loss to Marc Rosset Friday, posted a 6-3 3-6 6-3 6-4 victory over Hlasek to give the United States an unbeatable 3-1 lead over a surprisingly competitive Switzerland in the Davis Cup final.

Courier, who was severely down on himself after Friday's disappointment, was rushed by his teammates who engaged in a celebratory group hug. Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe then lifted the overjoyed victor onto their shoulders and carried him to the sidelines.

Each team member then took a victory lap around the indoor hard court waving a huge American flag.

"This is an amazing feeling. You can't buy it," said Courier. "Nothing means more to me than to be here with this bunch of guys and bring the cup back where it should be."

Courier, who took an undisputed 2-5 Davis Cup record into Sunday's climactic match, explained his past disappointments by saying perhaps he wanted it too much when playing for his country.

But Sunday's win should erase those ghosts for Courier as well as make up for last year's devastating loss to France in the Davis Cup final in Lyon.

"It wasn't the most stylish win but the great thing is that everybody on this team won a point,"



Jim Courier

said Tom Gorman, celebrating his second Davis Cup triumph in his seventh year as U.S. captain.

For the 33-year-old McEnroe, it was his fifth time as a member of a Davis Cup winning team and the second for Agassi, who opened the tie with a straight-set

win over Hlasek. Were it not for the remarkable comeback from two sets down by Sampras and McEnroe for a thrilling doubles win Saturday, Courier would have faced the burden of keeping the heavily favoured Americans alive for a

fifth and deciding match.

"If those guys hadn't won the doubles the momentum would have been with Switzerland," the relieved Courier said. "I slept a lot better last night."

Even with the pressure of a must-win match off his shoulders, Courier was tight and had trouble against Hlasek.

However, although he never approached his top form, Courier had enough fight to hold off the mentally tough but physically drained Hlasek.

Hlasek, who nearly carried Switzerland to a doubles win in Saturday's four-hour-plus match, played amazingly well considering he was coming off that five-set, emotional rollercoaster.

But in the end Courier had enough determination and killer instinct to carry the day.

Courier, who had not played well in splitting the first two sets, said he received a pep talk from Agassi that really picked up his spirits.

Swiss captain Dimitri Sturdza, whose team was playing in their first Davis Cup final, said: "I think these three days have been absolutely fantastic."

"I especially want to thank the Swiss supporters. You were great," he said to the thousand-strong contingent who created a European Davis Cup atmosphere in Texas with their cowbells, painted faces, chanting and flag-waving.

During the victory ceremony German congratulated the Swiss.

"You guys put up a hell of a fight."

Then, with tears welling in his eyes and emotion in his voice, he turned to his players.

"Guys, I can't thank you enough," Gorman said.

AC Milan experience thoughts of defeat

LONDON (R) — A rare and alarming notion occurred to AC Milan coach Fabio Capello at the weekend.

"At the end, I feared we might lose," he said after the Italian League soccer champions, unbeaten in 45 league matches before Sunday, drew 1-1 at home to Udinese.

In Germany, Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich also came close to defeat at bottom-of-the-table Bochum but were saved by captain Lothar Matthaeus and drew 2-2.

Matthaeus, Germany's World Cup captain, volleyed home an 89th-minute equalizer to keep Bayern one point ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt.

Inevitably, in a season when everything seems to favour Milan, even their unimpressive draw against lowly opponents helped the Italian team pull further away at the top.

Internazionale, Juventus and Sampdoria all lost, leaving Milan four points clear with a game in hand and unhappy rival coaches queuing up to complain.

Juventus, who face Czechoslovakia Sigma Olomouc in Turin

Thursday in a UEFA Cup third round second leg tie, warmed up in the worst possible manner, losing 2-0 at Fiorentina.

With key players such as Brazilian Julio Cesar, Briton David Platt and Roberto Baggio all injured, Juventus had German defender Jurgen Kohler sent off in the 36th minute.

Sampdoria, who meet Milan in a rescheduled league match Dec. 23 disappointed their Swedish coach Sven Eriksson by crashing 3-2 to Atalanta at home in Genoa.

Dutch League leaders PSV Eindhoven, who play Milan in the European Cup Wednesday, had the weekend off but their nearest rivals Ajax Feyenoord failed to cash in.

Ajax lost 1-0 at home in Amsterdam against FC Twente Enschede and fell to fifth, six points adrift of PSV. Feyenoord meanwhile had their goalkeeper sent off but scraped a 2-2 draw at home to Vitesse Arnhem.

Real Madrid also had chances in Spain but failed to take them and went down 2-0 in a shock defeat to modest local opponents Rayo Vallecano.

Lothar Matthaeus



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carot Righter Fou

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As Mercury moves into Aquarius today you may find that you are recharged with all kinds of ideas, some sound and some visionary, that will require considerable analysis before putting them into effect.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't make any changes in personal matters now but put your efforts on outside interests that require vocational perfection or a display of civic pride.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have all kinds of new ideas that are good for you to consider so study all aspects of them and don't make any commitments of a business nature yet.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep plugging away at activities you have to perform and it is advisable that you do not venture into the world of outside activity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get away from taking any chances on your usual activities today of a work nature and seek out some recreations that can build your spirit.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about the various things to be done at your home including investigating any plumbing problems, but don't go off on a pleasant journey.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you look into to

bring you knowledge and desire should be right, they now but don't let friction at your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be very careful on it or in any motion and a reckless and put your attention upon attending matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't let you involved in some get scheme and instead go things that you want and resourceful manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for methods for eliminating vane manner whatever; not to your best interest the outside world.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) A dynamic acquaintance can be of help to you in attaining so let them be known first about what you can

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Have a private with an influential person who can aid you public progress and avoid time consuming to

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You have the insight to gain almost any wish you desire excepting few conditions are concern after definitely.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Hai

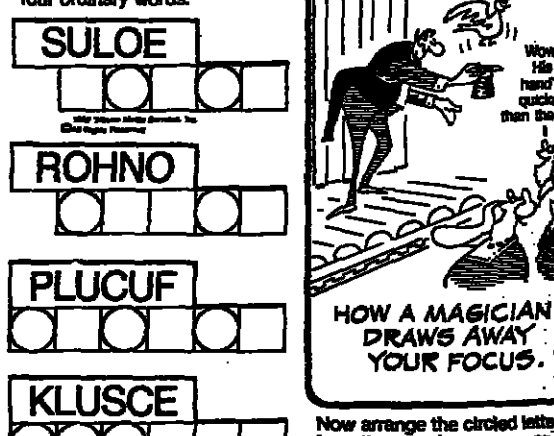


"I really hate it when you treat me like dirt!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD &

by Henri Arnold and Bob

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: BY

Yesterday's Jumbles: TAKEN PRINT LIMER TALLOW

Answer: What the waiter said to Mary - WILL YOU HAVE A LITTLE LAMB?

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1992 7

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE (Date: 4.12.92)	TOKYO CLOSE (Date: 7/12/92)
Sterling Pound	1.5605	1.5645
Deutsche Mark	1.5930	1.5935
Swiss Franc	1.4285	1.4428
French Franc	5.4070	5.4103**
Japanese Yen	124.95	124.67
European Currency Unit	1.2335	1.2368**

EUROPEAN OPENING AT 10.001 m. GMT.
Date: 7/12/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.15	3.81	3.81	4.15
Sterling Pound	7.31	6.81	6.82	6.82
Deutsche Mark	9.03	8.81	8.37	7.75
Swiss Franc	6.06	6.00	5.87	5.62
French Franc	10.00	10.00	9.75	9.06
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.62	3.56	3.56
European Currency Unit	11.37	10.75	10.06	9.12

Previous Metals Date: 7/12/92

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	335.80	6.50	Silver	3.77	.060

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 7/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0750	1.0804
Deutsche Mark	0.4311	0.4333
Swiss Franc	0.4764	0.4788
French Franc	0.1267	0.1275
Japanese Yen	0.5505	0.5533
Dutch Guilder	0.3837	0.3856
Swedish Krona	0.1007	0.1012
Italian Lira	0.0491	0.0493
Belgian Franc	0.02097	0.02107

Other Currencies Date: 7/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Lebanese Lira	1.7990	1.8150
Saudi Riyal	0.3533	0.3533
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2650	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1874
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7690
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1874
Greek Drachma	0.3310	0.3410
Cypriot Pound	1.4448	1.4558

AM Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5/12/92 Close	6/12/92 Close
All-Share	166.51	167.09
Banking Sector	120.34	120.43
Insurance Sector	183.16	184.08
Industry Sector	227.13	228.47
Services Sector	237.56	238.11

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for gold and silver against the dollar at mid-session in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

one sterling	1.5680/90	U.S. dollars
one U.S. dollar	1.2775/80	Canadian dollar
	1.5895/905	Deutsche marks
	1.7840/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4330/40	Swiss francs
	32.69/73	Belgian francs
	5.4100/50	French francs
	1392/1394	Italian lire
	124.90/95	Japanese yen
	6.8175/275	Swedish crowns
	6.4500/5500	Norwegian crowns
	6.1620/720	Danish crowns
one ounce of gold	\$335.20/335.60	

U.N. economists gloomy on '93 East-West economic prospects

GENEVA (R) — United Nations economists, in a gloomy outlook for 1993, Sunday predicted a new surge in unemployment in the West and further economic decline in former communist countries that could fuel fresh social unrest.

In its bi-annual East-West report, the world body's Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) urged tighter cooperation between leading economies and better aid to help the old Soviet Bloc set up real market systems.

"The outlook for the Western economies in 1993 has declined sharply since the summer," said the report, compiled at the end of November. "The forces of recession appear to have increased in the second half of 1992... the outlook remains sombre."

Official growth forecasts for 1993 in western Europe had slipped from 2.7 per cent, predicted a year ago, to only 1.5 per cent.

The report was completed before figures were issued last week suggesting an upswing in the United States for the third quarter of the year. But the ECE analysts said it was still too early to assess the real strength of this trend.

The report said over-confident forecasts of an upturn which had not arrived had acted as a depressing factor in the West while in the East excessive optimism on the speed of transition to market economics had also proved damaging.

"The frustration of rising expectations is widespread and provides fertile ground for the revival of ancient hatreds. In many parts of the region, aggressive nationalism and ethnic conflicts are increasing," they declared.

The report said there had been advances in three of the now 26 ex-communist "transition economies" — Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia where structures for a functioning market economy had been established and privatisation was in train.

But in overall terms, the slump in output had deepened for the third year running in 1992 across the region. The new states of the former Soviet Union including the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had been especially hard hit.

For Russia, the ECE said, output was likely to fall in 1992 by at least 25 per cent, taking the total drop since 1989 to around 36 per cent. In Latvia, industrial production was down 31 per cent over the first six months and in Lithuania 40 per cent.

Unemployment was also rising sharply throughout the old communist bloc, climbing in 1992 to 14 per cent in Poland in September and showing a "very rapid increase" in the former Soviet Union.

"The prospect of mass unemployment in countries where the social safety net is often rudimentary must inevitably increase the danger that social and political support for economic reform will quickly evaporate," the report said.

The report said while western European countries were unlikely to significantly increase trade among themselves, there seemed little prospect of stimulus from Japan or the United States.

"Thus, the three principal poles of the developed industrial world are now entering a period of weakening growth simultaneously, a situation which, a year ago most forecasters thought would be avoided," the report said.

Low business confidence and political doubts about the future of the European Community could lead to the risk of a serious recession, the report warned.

"Even if the mainstream forecasts are right — that there will be a slow recovery in the course of 1993 — unemployment is still going to rise quite sharply in the rest of this year and the next," the report declared.

India wants foreign banks to relax secrecy laws

NEW DELHI (R) — India, losing billions of dollars annually through illegal money transfers to foreign banks, has called for a more transparent global banking system, India's federal police chief has said.

"At the heart of the issue is the secrecy norms in global banking which we want to be relaxed," S.K. Datta, director of India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told Reuters.

Some official estimates place India's losses through illegal transfers at between \$5.5 billion and \$7.5 billion annually.

Mr. Datta is heading the inquiry into India's \$12 billion financial scandal.

"The funds or money which are siphoned off are mostly derived out of crime (such as) bribery, evasion of taxes, over-invoicing and under-invoicing," Mr. Datta said.

He said most of the money leaving India through illegal channels was either deposited in "foreign banks which thrive on secrecy or in several tax havens across the world."

Mr. Datta told an Interpol meeting in Senegal last month that the malaise had seriously harmed economic development in Africa.

"Basically, the economic growth is affected by siphoning off funds to jurisdictions which act as magnets for such flows of money," Mr. Datta told the Interpol meeting on world economic crimes.

"The gross profit out of drug trafficking is mostly earned by the consuming countries. The transit countries (such as India) are affected to a much lesser extent. Even then my country... realised that this is a crime against humanity," he pointed out.

"The same seriousness should be exhibited in respect of economic crimes, which too generate a lot of secret money, the flows of which are elsewhere," he said.

He quoted an Interpol expert committee report as saying funds from unaccounted money often found their way into political crime.

The report, prepared in 1976, said: "The secret accumulation of funds which are the proceeds of (economic) crimes are used for criminal purposes such as trafficking narcotics, smuggling of firearms and political assassination."

Suggesting that banking countries could waive secrecy for certain crimes, Mr. Datta said this had worked well in the 1973 U.S.-Swiss treaty on mutual assistance on criminal matters.

Arab Financial Services has new headquarters

MANAMA (R) — Arab Financial Services Co. E.C. (AFS) has inaugurated a new 10-floor headquarters building in Bahrain, reflecting the strong growth it has registered in its eighth-year life-time.

Within two years of its foundation in 1984, the firm, owned by 58 Arab banks and financial institutions, had become the largest issuer of travellers cheques in the Arab World, with 40 to 50 per cent of the market, officials said.

It is the second largest issuer of Visa travellers cheques in the world, second only to Barclays.

Arab banks formed the company to be able to garner more of the profits from travellers cheques but it has expanded into other areas and now processes credit card payments and billings for 17 Arab banks.

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Jordan's stock market leaps to new record

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's stock market, the most active in the Middle East, reached a record monthly trading value of 128.1 million dinars (\$186 million) in November.

Trading on the Amman Financial Market, which hit a previous monthly record of 126.8 million dinars (\$184.3 million) in April, has been rising steadily since August.

It hit a daily high of 12 million dinars (\$17.4 million) on Nov. 21. The market corrected in the week to Dec. 2 in a 26.4 per cent drop to 28.7 million dinars (\$41.7 million) from 39 million dinars (\$56.6 million) the previous week, the Amman Financial Market said.

"It was a correction for profit-taking after the recent highs," said broker Abdul Muteleb Abu Hija.

He said banks dumped shares to comply with year-end central bank limits on share holding while companies and individuals sold stocks for seasonal profit-taking.

The Amman stock exchange price index of 38 leading shares closed up 3.8 points at 198.4 for the week ending last Wednesday, a two per cent rise from the previous week's close.

Trading volume in the five-day week fell to 10,600,000 shares with a daily average of 5.7 million dinars (\$8.2 million) traded from the previous week when 11,900,000 with an average daily value of 7.8 million dinars (\$11.3 million) changed hands.

Of the 80 companies listed in the stock exchange, 31 companies reported a share price increase last week compared to 42 which declined in value and seven which remained unchanged.

Insurance showed the highest rise in the price index followed by the banking and financial sector.

Industrial shares were the only sector that showed a drop, falling 1.5 per cent in the price index.

Development agencies urge end to Third World arms flow

ATLANTA (R) — International development agencies meeting jointly have concluded that most efforts to develop Third World nations will remain ineffective unless rich nations stop selling and giving weapons to poor countries.

At the conclusion of a two-day conference here on global development cooperation, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali also said lack of cooperation among agencies and countries which aid Third World economic development had repeatedly hampered development efforts.

The conference specifically urged governments and private aid organisations to form a single international task force to coordinate Third World assistance and called for the scientific and professional communities in industrialised countries to be enlisted more in supporting development.

"Global development cooperation is obstructed when national and international agencies number in the hundreds and each goes its own way," Dr. Boutros-Ghali said.

Because various agencies might be jealous of their position in a joint task force, Mr. Carter suggested that it be sponsored by a "neutral" private group, such as the Ford Foundation or the Carnegie Corp.

He said he would discuss the recommendations with the new U.S. secretary of state as soon as President-elect Clinton's transition team named its cabinet.

"There needs to be a restraint on sales or outright gifts of weapons," the former president said on behalf of the 150 participants.

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Death toll from riots over mosque hits 140 in India

BOMBAY (R) — Indian police Monday shot dead 40 rioters in Bombay to halt widespread violence and arson triggered by the razing of a mosque by Hindu militants in the northern town of Ayodhya, the Bombay police chief said.

Police Commissioner S.K. Bapat said police opened fire in 24 parts of the city during a day when angry mobs attacked buses and burned temples. At least 200 were injured.

The deaths took the overall toll across the country to more than 140. Curfews have been imposed in dozens of towns.

The bloodshed erupted after Hindu militants stormed and demolished a mosque in Ayodhya that had become a symbol of commitment by the overwhelmingly Hindu country of 850 million people to secular government.

The razing of the mosque plunged the country into political crisis. Mr. Bapat said 20,000 police were deployed across Bombay and a large number of preventive arrests had been carried out following the unrest in Ayodhya.

Of the 200 injured, at least 70 had bullet wounds, he said. They had been taken to eight city hospitals.

Police had been ordered to open fire in many cases to prevent clashes between angry bands of Hindus and Muslims.

Mr. Bapat told a press conference that 48 buses were damaged or burnt, and 10 places of worship attacked by mobs of up to 10,000 people.

One Bombay policeman was killed with a sword in the widespread unrest in India's business and commercial centre.

Mr. Bapat said that by evening much of the violence had died down, but the police and city government would consider whether troops were needed to patrol sensitive areas.

He declined to say if all those killed were Muslims, but said police had only opened fire in all cases as a last resort.

"Police firing was absolutely controlled on specific orders," he said inside the heavily guarded Bombay Police Headquarters.

Dozens of towns and cities across the country were either partly or

wholly under curfew Monday and troops marched through sensitive areas in a show of force.

Most of the violence erupted in towns and cities with large Muslim communities. India's overwhelmingly Hindu population of 850 million people includes 100 million Muslims.

At least 17 people were killed in Jaipur, capital of the desert state of Rajasthan and a popular tourist destination, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

Thirteen were killed in Uttar Pradesh state — including five in Ayodhya who were buried under debris when militants demolished the mosque Sunday. Sixteen towns in the state were under curfew, PTI said.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday sacked the Uttar Pradesh government after it failed to prevent the demolition of the mosque by Hindus who insist it stands on the birthplace of their revered god-king, Lord Rama.

The state government was ruled by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has spearheaded opposition to the Ayodhya mosque.

Ten people were killed in Ahmadabad, capital of Gujarat state, which has a history of Hindu-Muslim violence. Eight of them were killed when police fired on mobs, PTI said.

Three people were killed and a curfew imposed in the old city of Delhi when police fired at mobs storming vehicles. Police troops deployed around the sensitive Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque).

Four people were killed in the southern city of Hyderabad, two in the eastern state of Bihar and one each in the southern states of Karnataka and Kerala, PTI said.

In Calcutta, India's largest city and where a third of the population is Muslim, there were unconfirmed reports that mobs set two Hindu men ablaze. Parts of the city were put under curfew after large-scale arson, rioting and attacks on Hindu temples, police said.

A curfew was also imposed on the central Indian city of Bhopal. Clouds of smoke covered the skyline in the old quarter of the city, where enraged Muslims set fire to at least three Hindu temples.

Meantime militant Hindus who took over Ayodhya after destroying a

mosque started building a small temple on the ruins Monday.

The move appeared likely to fuel the furor over Sunday's destruction of the mosque that symbolised India's commitment to secularism in the face of Hindu revivalism.

Witnesses in Ayodhya said idols of the legendary Hindu warrior-king Rama, put in the unused mosque in 1949 and rescued as frenzied mobs tore the structure down, were placed on the spot in the ruins where many Hindus believe Rama was born.

A canopy was hung over them in conformity with religious practice. Militants began building a small temple around the images intended to become the centrepiece of a Rama temple in place of the 16th century mosque.

Lal Krishna Advani, the BJP leader in parliament who was in Ayodhya Sunday, resigned that position Monday, a senior party official said.

A senior federal police officer said some 200 Muslim houses were burned down after most of Ayodhya's Muslim population fled. Some stayed and attacked Hindus involved in the mosque destruction, killing six.

Home (Interior) Minister Shankar Rao Chavan said security forces had been told to retake Ayodhya, "and even resort to violence, if the situation so warrants," the United News of India reported.

But the senior officer said that was not the police plan.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, said only 20,000-25,000 people of the 200,000 Hindus had left Ayodhya.

He said police had no immediate intention of trying to retake the town, fearing that any attempt would cause carnage. "We are waiting for more of them to leave," he said.

Police were trying to cordon off the Hirva pilgrimage town of 8,000 people to prevent food supplies reaching the militant Hindus and forcing them to leave.

"We estimate there are food stocks in the town for only two days," the officer said.

Pakistan posted police at the Indian High Commission (embassy) and at Hindu temples in the southern province of Sind Monday after Muslims set fire to a temple in Karachi.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif issued

a statement expressing shock and horror at Sunday's attack by Hindu revivalists who razed the mosque at Ayodhya.

"This abhorrent act of extreme fanaticism deserves to be strongly condemned by all civilised countries and especially those which oppose religious intolerance and extremism and uphold human rights," Mr. Sharif said.

He called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the sacking, which could further damage already deteriorating relations between the two arch foes.

In Bangladesh, some 10,000 Muslim students protesting against the destruction of a mosque in India tried to storm a stadium in the city centre Sunday where a cricket match between an Indian and Bangladesh team was due to be held.

Police said at least 10 people were injured when Bangladesh riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to try to stop a possible backlash in this mainly-Muslim country against the destruction of the mosque in India.

Authorities cancelled a match and asked police to cord off the area.

Violence also broke out elsewhere in Bangladesh despite tight security. In southern port city of Chittagong, Muslim fundamentalists Sunday attacked five Hindu temples, damaged statues and looted some shops, residents said.

Police also cordoned off Hindu areas of old Dhaka where groups of Muslims set off fire crackers and tried to push through barricades, witnesses said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressed concern at the attack on the mosque but appealed to Bangladeshis to stay calm. "Islam is a religion of peace. It teaches us to exercise restraint," she said.

Iran also condemned the "shameful" destruction of the mosque and called on New Delhi to "restore the injured spirit of Muslims."

"This move was yet another tragedy that has befallen the sanctities and cultural symbols of the Muslims of India and was a violation of the sanctity of their place of worship and also a blatant violation of India's constitution," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Sunday.



Hindu fundamentalists Sunday attack the wall of the 16th century mosque with iron rods in Ayodhya (AFP photo)

Sarajevo fighting hits relief effort

SARAJEVO (R) — Fighting in Sarajevo forced U.N. workers to keep the city's airport closed to relief planes Monday and struggle on with alternative methods of distributing aid throughout Bosnia.

Heavy shelling and machinegun fire rattled through the city centre Monday morning, most of it apparently coming from the Serb-held Jewish cemetery. At least one person was shot dead by snipers in the city's old town.

The attacks in the centre followed a weekend of heavy fighting, mostly concentrated on Muslim suburbs near the airport, which has halted mercy flights to the stricken city for nearly a week.

U.N. officials in Geneva said Sunday they would not resume until Wednesday at the earliest. "The airport is definitely a target. Our equipment there has been hit by mortar shelling several times," said Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva.

"The fighting now is some of the worst there has been so far," she told Reuters.

Any suspension of flights is a major blow for the 380,000 civilians trapped in Sarajevo since April.

"Now we have only 150 tonnes of food in the central UNHCR warehouse in Sarajevo, said Bar-

ko Tipiric, a member of Bosnia's government office for humanitarian aid.

"Considering that we need at least 200 tonnes of food a day for Sarajevo residents alone you can see that we are in a very bad position."

To make matters worse, winter is fast closing in on the besieged city, with some 20 centimetres (eight inches) of snow on surrounding hills.

There is no electricity in most of the city, except in priority cases, and only about 30 per cent of houses have water.

Land convoys — so far the only alternative means of transporting supplies — are continually held up by fighting, minefields and local hostility.

Seventeen trucks carrying 100 tonnes of staple foods finally reached the beleaguered central Bosnian town of Tuzla Monday after being delayed for a day by a minefield.

Another UNHCR convoy finally succeeded in bringing medical supplies to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica at the weekend after previous attempts were halted by opposition from local Serbs.

UNHCR spokeswoman Lindel Sachs said it was hoped to send regular weekly convoys to Tuzla, as well as to Srebrenica and another besieged Muslim town in eastern Bosnia, Gorazde.

She also said the UNHCR was

hoping to run daily aid convoys to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo from Belgrade, passing through Serb-held parts of the country.

With the safety of land routes still uncertain, the U.N. Monday sent its first relief train to the southern town of Mostar from the Adriatic port of Ploce. Rail transport was previously considered too risky.

As well as disrupting aid distribution, the fighting has also hampered the movement of U.N. peacekeepers around Bosnia.

U.N. troops were forced to suspend vehicle movements along the road to the airport for a few hours Sunday and planes bringing troops and equipment to Sarajevo were also suspended Monday.

The peacekeepers' operations were likely to be further hampered by fighting around Vogošća, most of which is Serb-controlled and guards escape routes to the north.

The town, which contains a major ammunition factory supplying Serb forces, sits astride the road linking Pale, the headquarters of Bosnian Serbs, and Ilidza, a major Serb stronghold to the west of Sarajevo.

Sarajevo Radio reported continued fighting in northern Bosnia for towns along the "corridor" route vital for both Bosnia's Serbs and forces from neighbouring Croatia.

Russia's government backs off resignation threat

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's beleaguered reformist government stepped back Monday from a threat to resign en masse unless its leader Yegor Gaidar was confirmed as full prime minister by the country's supreme legislature.

A government spokesman delivered the ultimatum to ITAR-TASS News Agency Sunday and a Gaidar aide confirmed that the man was authorised to make official statements.

But Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais told local news agencies Monday the spokesman had exceeded his authority and had been sacked. He noted that some ministers had said in the past they could continue only under Mr. Gaidar's leadership, but said there was no collective or official position.

"The unofficial opinion of members of the government was turned into an official government statement," he said.

It was not immediately clear whether the legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, would get round to considering the prime minister's post Monday.

This will be the next major test of strength between radicals and conservatives after the congress failed last week to narrow margins Saturday to curb President Boris Yeltsin's presidential powers.

Conservative opponents of Mr. Gaidar's fast-track market reforms are confident they can block his confirmation, which needs a simple majority of the 1,040 deputies.

Mr. Gaidar, 36, favourite of Western free marketeers, has been in charge of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms since last December and has held the title of acting prime minister since June.

The congress seemed in no hurry to tackle the attempt and it was not included on the agenda for Monday.

Congress spent most of Monday morning on procedural matters. It also passed a resolution recommending that Russian troops be allowed to serve under contract in other former Soviet states.

Mr. Yeltsin, 61, who has been in an unusually subdued mood since the congress began last Tuesday, was not present in the Kremlin Grand Palace.

Mr. Yeltsin alone can nominate candidates for prime minister. He has said he will put forward no other candidate but Mr. Gaidar.

But if the vote goes against him, which seemed quite possible given voting trends so far, he has the option of reappointing Mr. Gaidar as acting prime minister.

Guerrilla group targets white South Africans

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black guerrilla group has declared war on white South Africans and threatened to kill government leaders including President F.W. De Klerk.

The South African Press Association (SAPA) said Monday Congo Jibril, a leader of the exiled Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) had told the guerrilla group would attack whites because they were "part and parcel of the oppressive regime."

Extreme rightwing white groups quickly took up the challenge, threatening attacks on the Pan African Congress (PAC) — APLA's political wing — and on "Communist organisations."

Mr. Jibril told SAPA in a telephone statement late Sunday night that Law And Order Minister Hennis Kriel had been singled out for assassination by APLA guerrillas.

Asked whether Mr. De Klerk was also a target, he said: "Yes." Then the line was cut.

SAPA said Mr. Jibril, calling his newsroom from an undisclosed location in Johannesburg, read a statement outlining the group's latest bombing campaign.

Five whites died and 38 were wounded in a gun and grenade attack on a golf club wine-tasting party on Nov. 28 and a bomb blast at a steakhouse restaurant last Thursday. Both attacks were in Eastern Cape province.

Mr. Jibril said these incidents were "just the beginning" and the APLA had sufficient weapons to conduct its campaign.

The APLA, Mr. Jibril said, had been asked "by the people to intensify the attack against whites so that they can cease their support to the South African police and the

South African Defence Force who are the legitimate targets of APLA."

He said APLA had listed 19 cities and towns for a bombing campaign, including Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and Pretoria. Johannesburg was not on the list.

"Intelligence reports we have indicate that these areas form the backbone of the South African Defence Force and South African Police," Mr. Jibril said.

The white right-wing Boere Weerstandbeweging (Boer Resistance Movement) said in a statement from its leader Andrew Ford that it was ready for war with all "Communist organisations."

In Windhoek, a senior African National Congress source said the ANC would smash the APLA after it came to power in South Africa.

"We will lock them up. We will find them and lock them up. We will smash them," said the source, speaking as ANC leader Nelson Mandela arrived on a one-day trip to Namibia.

The source, who declined to be identified, described the APLA threat as "terrorism."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mandela says he expects multi-racial elections to end white minority rule will be held by the end of 1993.

But African National Congress officials tried Monday to play down Mr. Mandela's remark, saying that organising the country's first election for all races may take until 1994.

Mr. Mandela told a press conference in Mozambique late Sunday that the white minority government agreed in closed talks with the ANC last week to hold elections by the end of next year.

Incumbents ahead in Slovenian elections

LJUBLJANA (R) — Slovenian President Milan Kucan looked set Monday to win re-election as president in the former Yugoslav republic's first national elections.

With more than two-thirds of the vote counted, Mr. Kucan, a reformed Communist who led his fledgling nation to independence 18 months ago, was in the lead with nearly 64 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Kucan ran as an Independent candidate although he heads the former Communist Party.

Slovenian citizens also voted for a new, two-house parliament. Results for the National Assembly (lower house) were coming in more slowly, but the ruling Liberal Democratic Party was ahead with about 24 per cent of the vote, according to returns reported by the official election commission.

But the vote was badly divided, with eight parties heading towards seats in the Assembly under Slovenia's new proportional representation system.

Final official results were not expected until Tuesday, when all paper ballots filled out by the estimated 1.5 million Slovenian voters would be counted.

It was clear that no one party would control parliament and a coalition would have to be formed. Liberal Democrat leader Jazet Dmosek, a former Yugoslav president who became Slovenia's prime minister in May, said he would not start negotiating a coalition until final results were in.

Swiss ponder links with Europe after 'no' vote

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland pondered its future relationship with Europe after Swiss voters convincingly threw out a government proposal to join a huge European market.

Membership in the European Economic Area (EEA) was rejected Sunday by a narrow majority of 50.3 per cent but by an overwhelming 16 of 23 cantons (regions), which under the Swiss democratic system must also approve changes to the constitution.

The result sharply highlighted deep divisions between the pro-EEA Francophone west and the anti-European German speakers in the east. It also underlined the gulf between the goals of government and leaders of industry on the one hand and the wishes of the people on the other.

The EEA aimed to unite the seven members of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), including Switzerland, and the 12-state European Community (EC) in a market of 380 million consumers.

In early reactions to the vote, Swiss politicians called for national reconciliation after a bitter referendum campaign in which government ministers were jeered at and insulted in public and each side accused the other of treachery.

But they demonstrated some doubt over the future shape of Switzerland's relationship with Europe.

Swiss President Rene Felber said at a government news conference after the result of the referendum was known that Switzerland would have to review its European policy and particularly its plan to join the EC.

Asked if Switzerland's application for EC membership, which the government submitted in May this year, would have to be dropped, Felber replied:

"We're keeping all our options open. The government must first analyse the situation and then decide."

But he added that it was unlikely that countries in EFTA or in the EC would want to

negotiate with a country that had rejected the EEA.

EC external relations chief Frans Andriessen said in Brussels that the EC executive would continue examining Switzerland's separate application for membership of the Community, but warned that the vote against the EEA would not help Switzerland's case.

And EC Commission President Jacques Delors said he believed Swiss voters had also been saying "no" to joining the EC.

Swiss opponents of the EEA say the EC will not shut its second biggest trading partner after the United States, but Mr. Andriessen ruled out bilateral negotiations to confer the trade terms of the EEA agreement on Switzerland.

The Swiss government campaigned strongly for the EEA, saying it would bring big benefits to the Swiss economy and save it from certain discrimination if Switzerland stayed outside.

Opponents not only raised the

spectre of cheap foreign labour flooding the country but also warned that the EEA was the first step on a slippery slope toward EC membership, domination by Brussels and the loss of cherished Swiss independence and neutrality.

Swiss centre-right parliamentarian Christoph Blocher, who spearheaded the anti-EEA campaign and has said he will fight against EC membership, called on the government to abandon its plans to join the community.

"The government will have to see how it goes about getting the application off the agenda," he told a news conference.

Switzerland's "no" will make necessary an inter-government conference to debate the future of the EEA, and is sure to delay its planned start-up on Jan. 1.

The EC has ratified the EEA as have EFTA members Austria, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Iceland has still to do so and tiny Liechtenstein holds its referendum next Sunday.

COLUMBIA

Bush welcomes arts honourees

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush welcomed four other women to the White House as they "have carried us and emotions and ideas best in the performing reach." This year's honourees are actors Pauli and Joanne Woodward, dance choreographer Taylor, and conductor at Mstislav Rostropovich, celebrity-filled reception.

East Room, Mr. Bush each honoree individual spoke of their contribution group. "Whether we're our feet to their music, their tunes, glided into their rooms — some witness — or grimed movie screen, or may waved an imaginary hat," Bush said, "tonight, I have delivered a lifetime of honours that have carried forms and emotions in only the best in the arts can reach."

Just call him Bill

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — What's in a name? It's four-letter word to the p. elect. He was born William Blythe IV, legally his name at 15 to William Clinton and is now a President-Elect Bill Clinton. Most people here still call him "Bill." The five-term governor signed bills with a simple, "Bill C" scribbled out with his le. Longtime aides can't name when he used anything in Bill Clinton, even to oath of office. "I, Bill Clinton," Mr. Clinton said, taking the oath of office third time. That was the Mr. Clinton's biggest embarrassment. During swearing-in ceremony, his left hand and put it hand on the Bible. It justice quickly and quipped Mr. Clinton, "right hand. Look for his the simple 'Bill Clinton' Jan. 20 inaugural and on. 'Nobody remember being anything other than Bill," said Mike G. spokesman in the Arkansas error's office. President signed his bills with a "Jimmy." Mr. Clinton's William Jefferson Blythe IV in an auto accident a few before the future president born. At age 15, William Blythe IV changed his when his mother was married Roger Clinton.

Pakistan arrests man smuggling birds to Gulf

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani officials have arrested a man to smuggle 215 rare birds to the Gulf where birds are prized as having distasteful qualities, customs officials said. Lal Bukhs, from Punjab province, was charged with smuggling the official Mr. Bukhs told officials: bustard fetched 8,000 (\$311) in Ras Al Khaima biggest market for bustard wildlife conservation officials it was the biggest bustard signment for many years. A recently banned Arab bird from hunting the bird in Pakistan. Pakistanis are from hunting the bustard, bi government has issued a permits for visiting Arab birds. Bustard hunting was prohibited under the wild life protection ordinance of 1972 and as Pakistanis have been prosecuted for hunting and possessing bird, which flies to Pakistan Central Asia in the winter.

From Miss Universe to madam mayor

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan Irene Saenz, Miss Universe of 1981, Sunday became Venezuela's richest woman. Ms. Saenz, whose disfigurement made her the most popular of the 200,000 candidates, defeated two contenders for the newly created District of eastern Caracas local Venezuelan Network. "I already feel like a winner," said Ms. Saenz, 30, in an interview. She was backed by ruling Accion Democratica and the Social Christian Copei leadership of the district about 180,000 people.

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